



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

24th Street Property Owners Approve Special Tax District

By Corrie M. Anders

Carol Yenne and Debra Niemann, the driving forces behind the effort to create a Community Benefit District along a seven-block stretch of 24th Street, had a bad case of the jitters as the final votes were being tallied this summer.

"We thought we had the votes we needed. But you don't know until all the votes are counted," said Yenne, president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. "We had to hold hands and hold our breath."

Yenne and Niemann, president of the Friends of Noe Valley, heaved a sigh of relief after the outcome of mail-in balloting was announced Aug. 2. Twenty-fourth Street property owners, by a 57 to 43 percent "weighted-assessed" margin, voted to tax themselves to pay for improvements to the neighborhood's commercial corridor.

Despite the extra cost, "I think the CBD is going to be great," said Castro Street attorney Robert Roddick, who served on the special tax district's formation committee. "It's going to present the commercial corridor as a standout place to come and shop."

The CBD, whose purpose is to keep the 24th Street commercial strip clean and beautiful, and make it a safe and appealing place for merchants, residents, and customers, will be known formally as the Noe Valley Association.

The association has a first-year operating budget of \$220,000, and officially will start operations in January. That's when an elected board takes office and the first funds arrive. And sometime dur-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Noe Valley Gets a Second CarShare Vehicle—a Toyota Wagon

By Liz Highleyman

Starting this month, Noe Valley residents have an additional transportation option in the heart of the neighborhood.

City CarShare, the Bay Area's non-profit car-sharing service, now has a new Toyota Scion xB making its home at the Noe Valley Ministry parking lot on 24th Street between Vicksburg and Sanchez.

The boxy maroon vehicle—a cross between a large station wagon and a minivan—offers a roomier alternative to the Honda Civic hybrid parked at the Walgreen's lot on Castro Street between 24th and Jersey.

"We've had a lot of requests," City CarShare's Colleen Crowley told the *Noe Valley Voice*. "We have a lot of members in Noe Valley who have been wanting for quite some time to have more cars."

Billing itself as "a cheaper, greener



Nobu Hanaoka, who as an infant survived the bombing of Nagasaki, Japan, took over the pastorate of Bethany Church in July.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

An Ideal Match: Nobu Hanaoka and Bethany Church

By Laura McHale Holland

On July 1, Rev. Nobu Hanaoka became the new pastor of Bethany United Methodist Church, which is located at the corner of Clipper and Sanchez streets. He replaces interim pastor Dr. David Ourisman, who took the reins from Karen Oliveto a year ago. She made headlines when she officiated same-sex marriage ceremonies during San Francisco's gay marriage venture of 2004 and is now assistant dean at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley.

"Bethany is well-known throughout the nation as a church that is actively in support of the LGBT community's human rights. I agree with that position, and it is a privilege to be part of that ministry," says Hanaoka, who resides in Daly City with his wife, Ayako, and two daughters who are in their early 20s. He also has a 33-year-old son living in Los Angeles.

One of Hanaoka's daughters is a lesbian, and in late July he spoke about his emotional adjustments to her sexual preference at a United Methodist gathering in Berkeley for Asian Americans. His own experiences have strengthened his commitment to moving the larger United Methodist Church to full inclusion of LGBT people. He'd like to see them be able to marry and to become pastors.

His personal experiences also have made peace issues central to his 35 years of ministry. He was an infant who survived the bombing of Nagasaki in 1945. His mother, one of his sisters, and his brother were not so lucky. While they did not succumb immediately, they all died from the effects of radiation before he was a teenager.

Hanaoka organized an observance in Peace Plaza in Japantown on Aug. 6, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Ralphs Looking For a Buyer for Bell Markets

Will Mollie Stone's Make An Offer?

By Corrie M. Anders

The Bell Market grocery store is pulling out of Noe Valley—and the upscale Mollie Stone's may be pulling in.

Bell is the only full-scale grocery in the neighborhood and has been a landmark since 1968. But the 24th Street supermarket is on the chopping block, and a sale may be consummated in the near future.

Bell is a subsidiary store of Ralphs Grocery Co., a giant retailer based in Compton, Calif. In addition to unloading the 24th Street store, sources familiar with the situation said Ralphs is seeking to sell all 20 Bell Markets and Cala Food Stores it owns in Northern California, including nine in San Francisco.

The corporate parent has made no official statement about the decision to shutter the Bell and Cala stores, which it acquired in the mid-1990s. The company has been closing small, underperforming stores throughout Northern California.

"At this point I can't comment," Ralphs spokesman Terry O'Neil told the *Voice*. "Keep checking in."

But word has been leaking out as Ralphs, itself a division of national retailer Kroger Co., conducts talks with potential buyers, vendors, and other firms that would be involved in closing the stores.

Michael Sharpe, who heads the union that represents grocery workers, said recently that he has heard the buzz that Ralphs was preparing to sell its Bell and Cala stores.

"I don't think it's much of a rumor," said Sharpe, president of the United Food

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



A lot of people helped test-drive the new Toyota station wagon that City CarShare parked in the Noe Valley Ministry lot on 24th Street last month. Shown from left to right are City CarShare CEO Rick Hutchinson, Noe Valley Merchants Association President Carol Yenne, John Friedman of the Noe Valley Farmers' Market, District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, and APM Parking Operator Luke Aguilera.

Photo by Colleen Crowley

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



September Comes – Summer Goes. The reflected sun in this Castro Street window signals both the beginning and the end of two seasons. *Photo by Najib Joe Hakim*



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Bell

Markets

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CALIFORNIA
CA GROWN



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Tomatoes

2⁴⁹
lb.

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CALIFORNIA
CA GROWN



ORGANIC

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Green Beans

\$3
2 lbs.

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ORGANIC



Fresh Organic
Crisp Sweet
Gala Apples

1⁹⁹
lb.
With **CLUB**

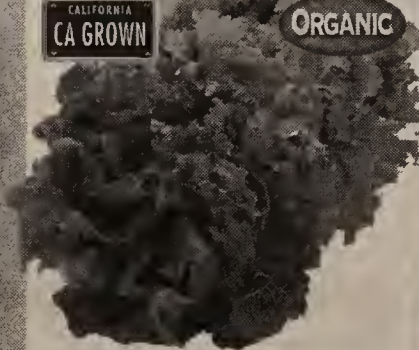
ORGANIC



Fresh Organic
Green Seedless
Grapes
(Sold in Cello Bag)

2⁹⁹
lb.
With **CLUB**

CALIFORNIA
CA GROWN



ORGANIC

Fresh Organic
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Leaf Lettuce
Bunch

1⁶⁹
ea.
With **CLUB**

ORGANIC



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CA GROWN



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ORGANIC



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Bartlett
Pears

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lb.
With **CLUB**

ORGANIC



Fresh Sweet
Organic
Strawberries
8 oz.

2 for \$7
With **CLUB**

ORGANIC



Fresh
Organic
Medjool Dates
12 oz.

6⁹⁹
ea.
With **CLUB**

CALIFORNIA
CA GROWN



ORGANIC

Fresh Organic
Green
Romaine Lettuce
Bunch

1⁸⁹
ea.
With **CLUB**

ORGANIC



Fresh Organic
Ruby Red
Grapefruit

99¢
ea.
With **CLUB**

CALIFORNIA
CA GROWN



ORGANIC

Fresh
Organic
Carrots
Bunch

1³⁹
ea.
With **CLUB**

ORGANIC



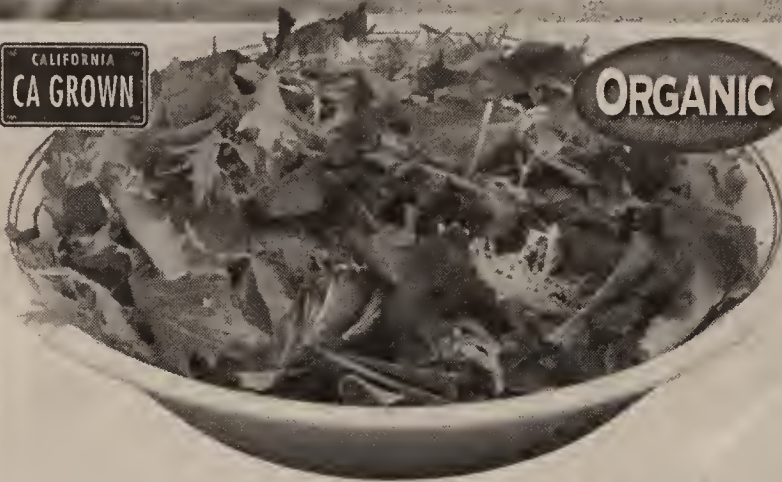
Fresh Organic
Golden Delicious
Apples

1⁹⁹
lb.
With **CLUB**

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CALIFORNIA
CA GROWN

ORGANIC



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Bulk

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lb.

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THESE
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TAGS
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OUT THE
STORE!

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ORGANIC



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CA GROWN

ORGANIC



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Baby Peeled
Carrots
16 oz.

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With **CLUB**

ORGANIC



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Vine Ripe
Tomatoes

1⁹⁹
lb.
With **CLUB**



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Natural
Yogurt
Selected Varieties
8 oz.

4 for \$3⁹⁹
With **CLUB**



Clover
Natural
Sour Cream
Selected Varieties
16 oz.

2 for \$4⁹⁹
With **CLUB**

CALIFORNIA
CA GROWN

ORGANIC



Fresh Organic
Italian
Squash

99¢
lb.
With **CLUB**

ORGANIC



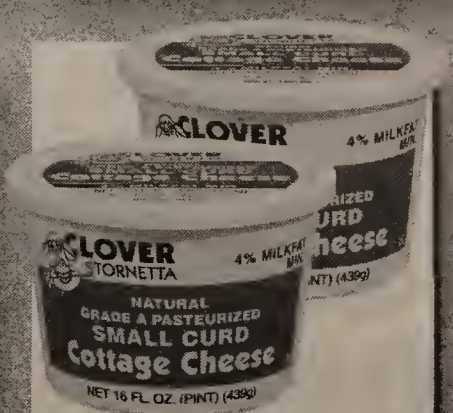
Fresh
Organic
Limes

2 for \$1⁹⁹
With **CLUB**



Clover Certified
Organic
Half and Half
16 oz.

1⁷⁹
With **CLUB**



Clover
Natural
Cottage Cheese
Selected Varieties
16 oz.

2²⁹
With **CLUB**

CALIFORNIA
CA GROWN

ORGANIC



Fresh Sweet
Organic
Valencia Oranges

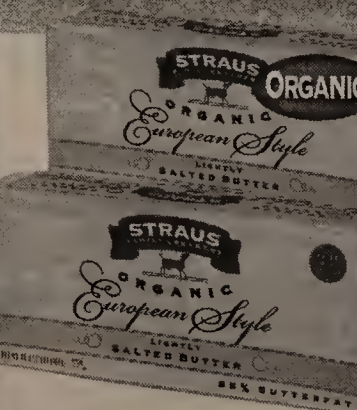
99¢
lb.
With **CLUB**

ORGANIC



Fresh Sweet
Organic
Raspberries
6 oz.

2 for \$8⁹⁹
With **CLUB**



Straus
Organic
Butter
Regular or Sweet
1 lb.

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With **CLUB**



Horizon
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Large Eggs
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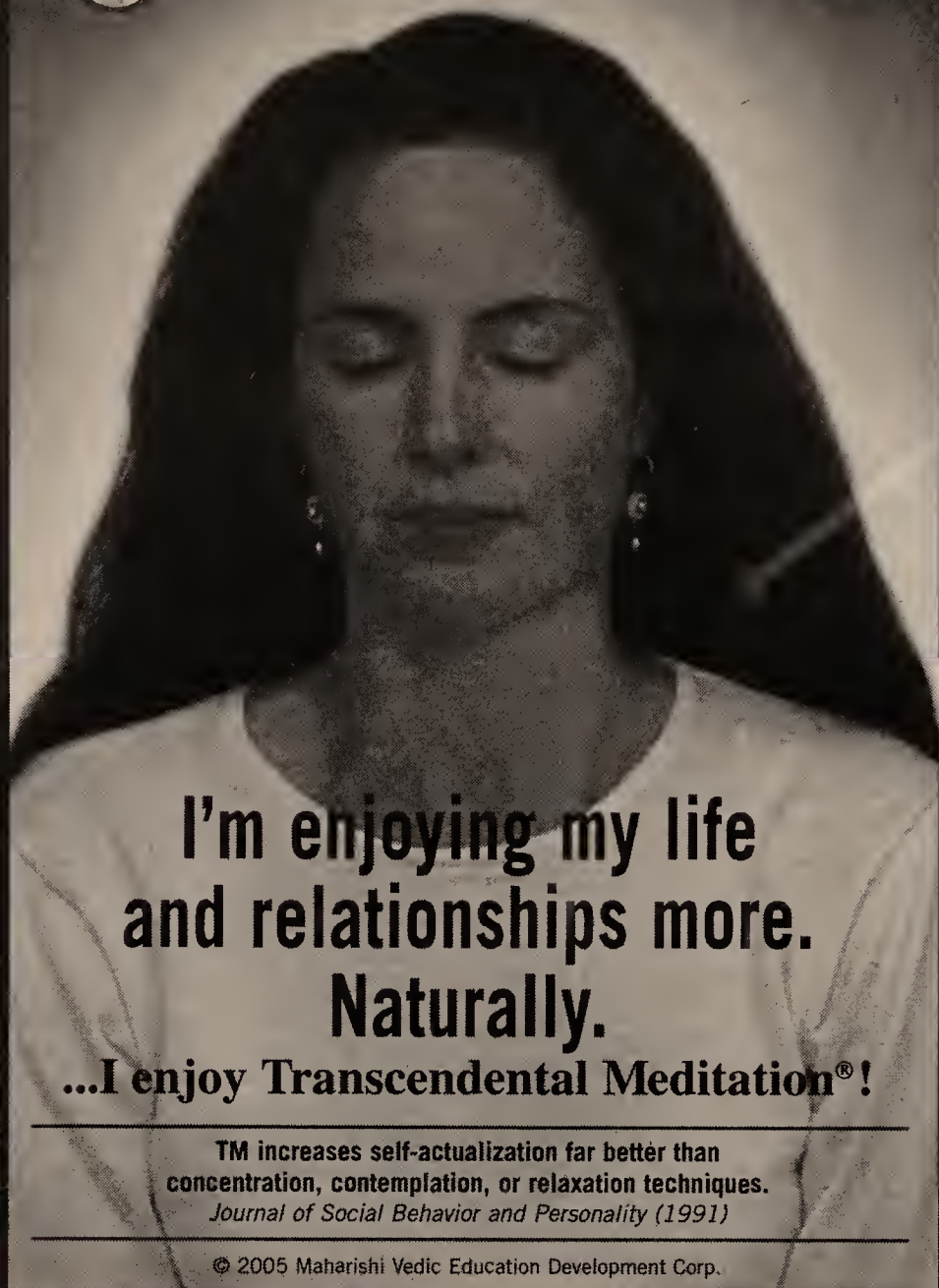
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CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS

Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS AND EDITORS

Olivia Boler, *Last Page Editor*

Laura McHale Holland, *Associate Editor*

Karol Barske, *Calendar Editor*

Corrie M. Anders, Heidi Anderson, Rosie Ruley
 Atkins, Valeria Vegas, Sue Cattoche, Helen Colgan,
 Suzanne Herel, Liz Higleyman, Florence Holub,
 Jeff Kaliss, Doug Konecky, Laura McCloskey, David
 Mois, Bob Oaks, Erin O'Brian, David O'Grady,
 Peter Orsi, Elliot Poger, Roger Rubin, Tom Ruiz,
 Lorraine Sanders, Karen Topkian, Kate Volkman

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Pamela Gerard, *Photo Editor*

Beverly Sharp, *Senior Photographer*

Ed Buryn, Nafib Joe Hakim, Leo Holub, Charles
 Kennard, Maureen McGettigan, Ken Newman

PRODUCTION

Jon Elkin, Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

ILLUSTRATION

Karol Barske

WEB DESIGN

Elliot Poger

ADVERTISING SALES

Steve Steinberg, *Advertising Manager*

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LETTERS 37¢

A Disappointed Teenager

Editor:

I am one of the few teenagers who live around the 24th Street area of Noe Valley. I'm not sure this is the right place to send this letter, but I just wanted to express my disappointment in how Noe Valley has turned out. It seems as if the Noe Valley area isn't as teenager-friendly as it used to be.

I've lived in Noe Valley since I was a baby. I lived on Fair Oaks until I was 5, when we moved to Noe and 22nd streets, so I guess you could say that at 15 I know a lot about living here. Growing up, it was fun to just walk around Noe Valley and visit the various parks and shops in the area. However, now it seems like I'm no longer welcome in the area I grew up in. The parks have more or less literally "gone to the dogs," and many of the shops aren't very teenager-friendly. Actually, I can remember a few times in eighth grade being asked to leave a store because they didn't like having the St. Philip's kids inside at the same time as the James Lick kids. The increase in police in the area isn't very comforting. To me, it seems like teens are often stopped for just hanging around on 24th Street.

What happened? Did we suddenly become undesirable when we turned 13? Are we expected to leave and not come back until our 20s? In all honesty, I no longer have the same respect and love for Noe Valley I once had. As I embark on my junior year in high school, I almost feel bad saying that I can't wait until college so I can leave the neighborhood I once loved.

Noe Valley is no longer a family-friendly neighborhood. It has turned into

an area of yuppies and straight-laced couples who would prefer nothing more than to rid Noe Valley of its youth. What happened?

Kelly

Via e-mail

CBD Vote a Sham

Editor:

I read a news article [in the Aug. 12 *San Francisco Chronicle*] about the Community Benefit Districts. It stated that Noe Valley, among other districts, had voted overwhelmingly to tax themselves to pay for extra services.

This was grossly untrue. The only people being taxed were the property owners on 24th Street from Church to Douglass streets. There was a total of 168 owners polled. Of the 168, only 96 voted. The vote was 50 no and 46 yes!

This is another city boondoggle. There was little publicity given to this issue, and many owners probably threw away their ballots. There should be more notification, the vote retaken, and this travesty corrected.

Harry J. Aleo

24th Street

Editor's Note: As a point of clarification, state law (Proposition 218) mandates that any effort to raise taxes by creating a special district providing services not already provided by the city must give property owners with larger tax assessments proportionately more say than those with smaller ones. The "weighted-assessed" results of the Aug. 2 vote by 24th Street property owners were 57 percent in favor of the new district and 43 percent against (see story, front page).

Stop, Look, and Listen

Editor:

I've been avoiding 24th Street for three main reasons: aggressive drivers; pedestrians who cross the street whenever they please, often jaywalking; and, when I'm driving, the lack of parking (it'd be nice if a parking garage were available).

I think if drivers followed the speed limit, stopped double-parking, and took their proper turns at the stop signs, it would be less stressful for all of us. Pedestrians need to respect the road rules, too, and practice what we were taught as children: "Stop, look, and listen."

Name withheld by request

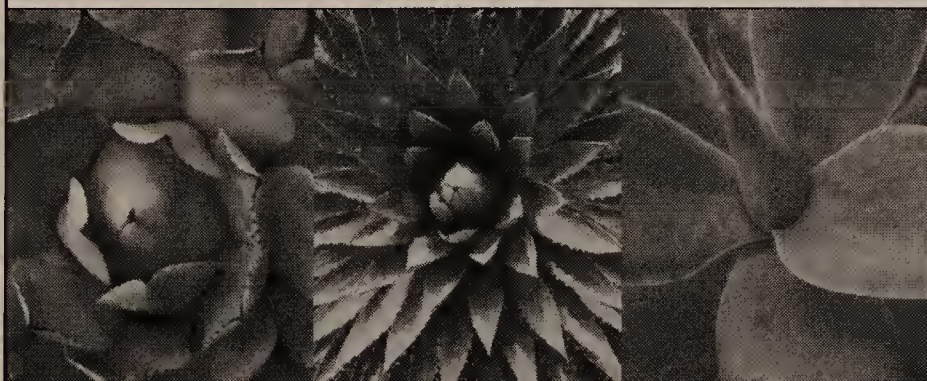
Hard of Hearing? SHHH!

Editor:

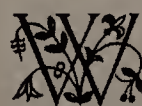
I really applaud your decision to run an article on hearing loss in your recent July/August edition. Yet as soon as I had finished reading "Michael Chorost Tells Us What Bionic Hearing Feels Like," I realized the need for a crucial issue to be addressed as well: support and education for individuals with hearing loss who do not consider themselves to be culturally deaf and who do not know or use American Sign Language.

While the cultural deaf have an excellent support system, there is a large and growing number of people with hearing loss who not only go unnoticed and feel very isolated, but who also do not know where to go for support and education. Fortunately, there is a national non-profit organization that, combined with its local and state chapters, meets those needs: Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH). SHHH's mission is to "open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support, and advocacy."

SHHH has seven local chapters in the Bay Area, including one in San Francisco. Our meetings are free to all who are



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interested in issues concerning hearing loss. Once a month we come together to socialize and to listen to guest speakers addressing a range of topics, such as coping skills, new developments in hearing-aid technology and other assistive listening devices, and legal rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

I have been the president of the San Francisco chapter of SHHH since 1996, and I am proud to say that our chapter maintains good working relationships with other agencies such as the Mayor's Office on Disabilities, the San Francisco Main Library, and the Hearing and Speech Center of Northern California. Another accomplishment of the local chapter was the introduction of a noise-level rating system symbolized by bells, to accompany restaurant listings and reviews in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

We welcome new members at our meetings, held on the second Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. to noon, at 1400 Geary Street, Level A. For information call 705-0550 or go to our web site, www.hearingloss.org.

Ronda Bonati
Diamond Street

A Blissful Luncheon

Editor:

I would like to share the wonderful experience I recently had with my neighbor Lucille Bliss, who happens to be the voice of Smurfette, Crusader Rabbit, and Anastasia, one of the "ugly" stepsisters in the Walt Disney cartoon production of *Cinderella*. Miss Bliss was discussing with me, during lunch at Savor's on 24th Street, the recent interview she completed for the upcoming re-release on DVD of *Cinderella*. She is quite excited, as well she should be, as *Cinderella* is one of Mr. Disney's most beloved creations. According to Lucille's inside information, her interview will be part of the special features included in the DVD package. You can rest assured I will ask her to autograph my copy of *Cinderella*.

Lucille Bliss has resided here in Noe Valley for more than 40 years, and commutes by jet frequently to her second home in Hollywood. I have been blessed having such a dear lady as my neighbor and can honestly say she is one of the kindest individuals I have ever met.

Lucille has informed me she is in the process of writing her life story, which will be chock full of her unique experiences in the movie industry throughout her years as a voice actress in the glamorous Hollywood studios. When her book

LETTERS 37¢



Noe Street neighbors John Marshall and Lucille Bliss reminisce about her *Cinderella* story over lunch at Savor Restaurant.

is finished, I won't be surprised if I happen to see her interviewed on *Oprah* or even the *Today Show*. She has a lot to tell!

Over the years, Miss Bliss has kept me informed of her many auditions, and I have witnessed her getting a part in *Tales of the City* and her work for George Lucas on video game voiceovers. Her non-stop enthusiasm for her profession is mind-boggling, and I often wonder where she gets her energy.

She is a very light eater, takes her vitamins, and does not use stimulants or anything in excess. In the 28 years I have known her, she hasn't gained an ounce. Indeed I am jealous! So get prepared for the release of *Cinderella* in October, and look for her fascinating life story, which she promises will be published soon.

John Marshall
Noe Street

Around the World—Starting from Chattanooga Street

Editor:

My name is Walter Thompson, and I'm fortunate enough to live in Noe Valley.

My partner, Liz Warner, and I have been traveling around the world since June, and we've seen and done many fascinating things along the way. We've been blessed by a temple elephant in Hampi, India, studied the intricate detail

of the Taj Mahal, wandered through the ruins of Angkor Wat, and cruised the islands of Halong Bay, Vietnam.

Apart from the major points of interest, we've met some incredible people in the countries we've visited—some tourists, some residents, some expats. One thing is certain, I've developed a new appreciation for my friends and family, and for the neighborhood in which I reside.

We've created a travel blog that we'd like to share with our neighbors—you can find it at www.withoutreservations.net. We update the blog with photos and text whenever we have an opportunity, so please feel free to check in often. Our itinerary is posted, and we'd love to have you meet us along the way.

I'm extremely lucky to have this opportunity—and to share it with Liz. I can't imagine a better travel partner.

We're now in Hong Kong, but we leave tomorrow (Aug. 12) for Istanbul, then on to Central Europe. After a jaunt to North Africa, we'll head to New York City to visit some friends, stop off on a few Caribbean islands, and wind up in Central America before completing our "circumnavigate" Oct. 13.

Hope all's well in Noe Valley.

Walter Thompson
walterthom@aol.com
Chattanooga Street

Kitties Need Mice

Editor:

I've been told that San Francisco Animal Care and Control often runs out of toys for the cats and kittens. The cats especially love the little furry mouse toys.

So I'm writing to request donations of new kitty toys—especially little fake mice, preferably without catnip. If you have any or can buy some, please drop them off at Animal Care and Control,

1200 15th Street at Harrison, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily (until 7 p.m. Wednesday).

I'd also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Pet Food Express, whose owners, Michael Levy and Mark Witriol, have generously donated (and continue to donate) dozens of cardboard cat scratchers for ACC's kitties over the past year. They are a Bay Area treasure.

Bill Hamilton

Founder/President, Friends of San Francisco Animal Care and Control
helpanimals@sfacc.org

Pot Club Protest Smells Like Racism

Editor:

The Green Cross made one mistake ["Cannabis Club's Permit Suspended After Complaints from Neighbors," July/August *Voice*]. If they were east of Guerrero Street (the brown side) rather than west (white, million-dollar homes), there would be no problem.

Noe Valley has no room for racists! The real solution is a pot club in every neighborhood.

John Wiget and Melissa Goan
Sanchez Street

Last Page the Best

Editor:

Recently, my son, who lives in San Francisco, sent me a copy of your July/August publication. I found it very interesting and informative. You do a great job!

You did save the best for last. My favorite was the article "My Brother Was Eaten by a Bear" [Last Page, July/August 2005]. Author Dan Halas has a unique way of sharing his brother's life. What a wonderful tribute to his brother Bill.

Eunice Hill
Bloomfield, Iowa

Editor's Note: You can find Dan Halas' story, along with the rest of our monthly news and features, on our web site at www.noevalleyvoice.com.



LETTERS to the EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail editor@noevalleyvoice.com.

Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity.

We look forward to hearing from you.



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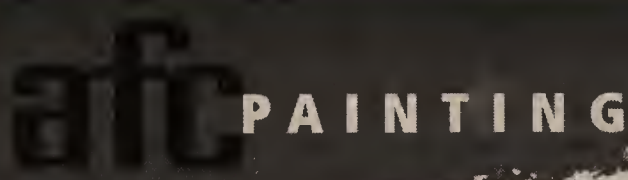
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Bell Markets on the Chopping Block

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Union, Local 648. "I think it's a fact that the company is selling stores. I don't know if it's the complete list or individual stores up for sale."

Sources told the *Voice* that Mollie Stone's, a fashionable boutique that started 10 years ago as a natural foods and organic food market in Mill Valley, has been in talks with Ralphs to take over the Bell location on 24th Street.

"It's too sensitive of an issue for me to address," said David Bennett, who co-founded the chain with business partner Mike Stone. "I think what I can say is that we have two stores in San Francisco and we're always looking to expand in the city."

Other businesses rumored to be interested in the site include Raley's, a Sacramento-based grocery with 114 locations in California; specialty retailer Trader Joe's, and Longs Drug Stores, a Walnut Creek-based drug chain.

Those companies refused to say whether they had any interest in setting up shop in Noe Valley. Longs spokeswoman Farra Levin said only that the company was in "an accelerated growth process" and that "we're always extremely interested in real estate that will accelerate our expansion." Raley's spokeswoman Nicole Townsend said the privately-held firm does not share information about its new-store plans.

If a supermarket does not move into the Bell site, Noe Valley residents would have to go outside the neighborhood to shop. Three smaller stores that once served Noe Valley have closed their doors: Real Food Company shut down its 24th Street operation two years ago on Labor Day week-

end, and Mikeytom Market also folded its Church Street operation in the summer of 2003. For a decade or so until the mid-1980s, Bell operated a second Noe Valley branch at 1333 Castro Street. The store, known affectionately as "Little Bell," is now a Walgreen's drugstore.

Safeway Adds Sushi and Starbucks

Intrigue over Bell's looming withdrawal comes as several supermarkets have designed stylish new stores and brought in higher-quality groceries and services to lure customers to locations on the edge of Noe Valley.

In January, Mollie Stone's took over the old Tower Market at 635 Portola Drive in the Twin Peaks area—less than a five-minute ride from 24th Street—and stocked the store with its trademark specialties. Shoppers can pick up everything from fresh sushi, fresh lobster, and crab to kosher meat that is cut on the premises under the supervision of Vaad Hakashrus of Northern California.

Safeway is perking up the stodgy image of its store in the Diamond Heights Shopping Center. The store is being remodeled with a "lifestyle" format that emphasizes a sophisticated décor—walls painted in earth-tone colors, subdued and warm lighting, and laminated floors in the produce section. The makeover includes an expanded organic produce selection, new sushi and salad bars, a larger deli, and a new Starbucks kiosk, where you can buy such exotic fare as a mint-mocha-chip frappuccino.

Safeway spokeswoman Jennifer Webber said the remodeling project, part of a \$100 million campaign to renovate stores around the country, is expected to be completed at the end of October.

Bell, which recently spent \$200,000 to remodel the 13,000-square-foot store, employs about 50 workers on 24th Street. The imminent sale has created some anx-

xiety among the staff, who wonder if they will lose their jobs or what kind of working conditions will exist under a new owner. In the past, Ralphs has transferred workers from closed stores to other locations, or otherwise helped them to find new jobs.

Bell has about four years left on its 24th Street lease. The real estate firm which handles the Bell lease said it has received no official word of any pending lease changes. "As far as we're concerned, we're prepared to honor the lease," said Michael Campaigna of Anchor Realty, which represents the property owner.

Mixed Feelings About Bell

The prospect of a Bell pullout has left residents with mixed emotions. "I'm sorry they're leaving," said Eleanore Gerhardt, who lives across the street from the store. "It's a very nicely run store," and "the people who work there and the managers that I've known over the years have been very nice people."

Gerhardt said she is "more concerned about who's moving in." She said Mollie Stone's and other high-end groceries thought to be potential buyers are "too expensive for me."

Other residents, such as neighborhood historian Bill Yenne, look forward to a change. "We deserve a grocery chain that takes pride in their property and hires staff that understands the merchandise and stocks better-than-average products. Mollie Stone's is one of those," said Yenne. "It is typical of a better class of grocery chain."

But longtime resident Paul Kantus said he thinks Bell is "doing very well right now," and that he doesn't believe there "will be many changes" under a new owner. "I would assume that Mollie Stone's will keep it up," said Kantus, who is also president of the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club.

Ralphs, which operates a Cala Fresh Fare store in the Castro District at 4201 18th Street, has been aggressive in closing stores throughout Northern California that do not perform to its expectations. In January, the company emptied the shelves at a Cala at the corner of Mission Street and Alemany Boulevard. The store had more than 30 employees. Ralphs is trying to lease the 18,682-square-foot space for nearly \$33,000 per month.

The Bell stores have a long history in San Francisco. Dominick Bell and two brothers launched the grocery in the aftermath of World War II. Through a series of mergers and acquisitions in the 1980s and '90s, the Bell and Cala stores became a division of Ralphs. Kroger acquired Ralphs in 1990, and the Bell-Cala stores became integrated into the national chain.

Ralphs Refuses to Support CBD

Rumors about Ralphs' intentions first began swirling in early summer after the 24th Street Bell backed away from a commitment to support Noe Valley's effort to create a Community Benefit District. Bell would have had the largest property assessment to finance the CBD operations.

Ralphs executives told Carol Yenne, president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, and Rich Hillis, the mayor's director for economic development, that the firm was reevaluating its Northern California strategy. At the time, Ralphs would not respond to their requests—including several from Mayor Gavin Newsom—for more specific information.

The owners of the Bell property subsequently agreed to step in and support the CBD effort to beautify the 24th Street commercial corridor—and the measure won voter approval Aug. 2.

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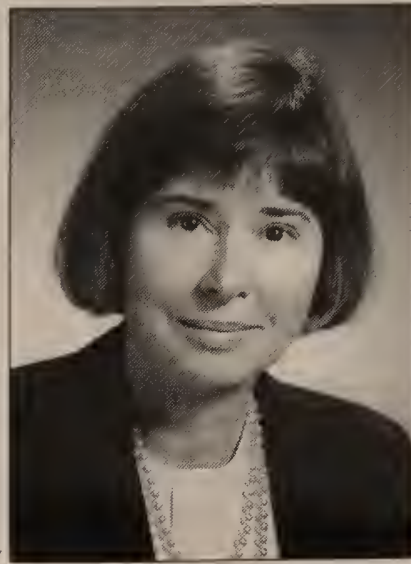
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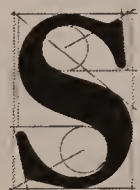
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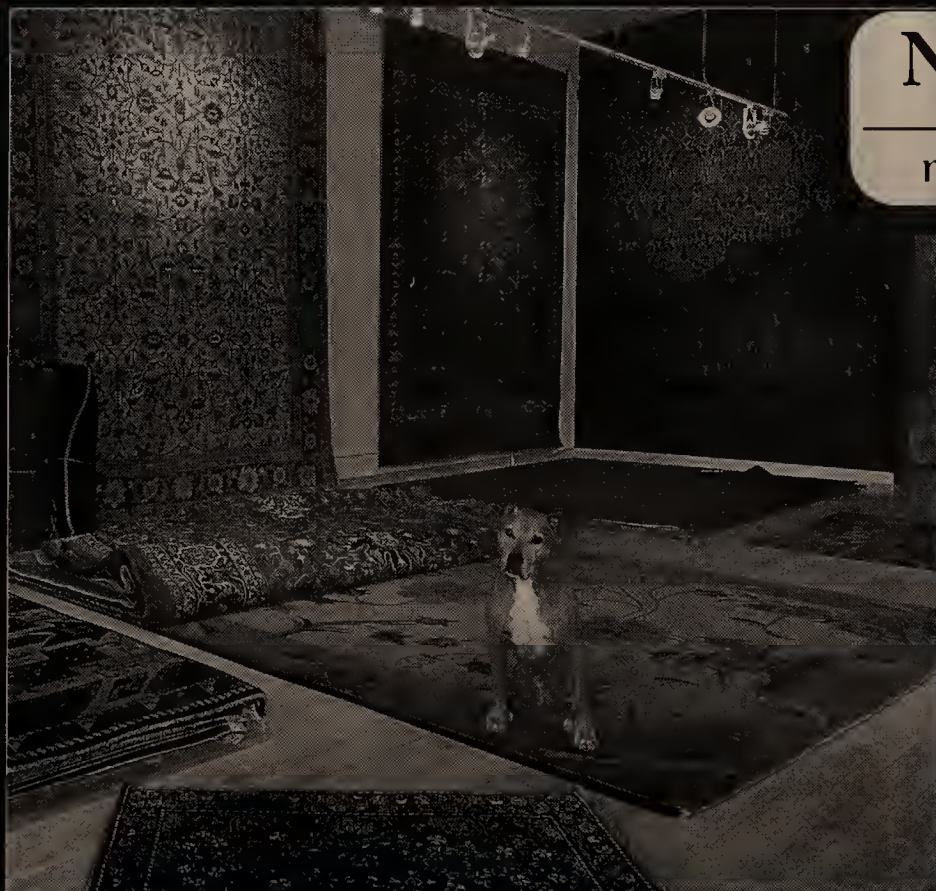
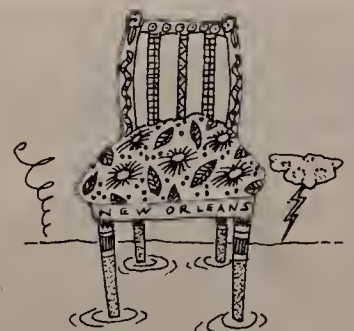


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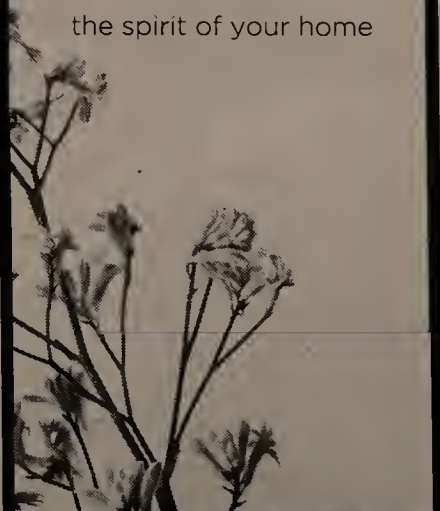
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Community Okays Benefit District

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing the first two months of 2006, neighborhood shoppers will start to see steam-cleaned sidewalks, new benches and flower boxes, and uniformed security patrols on duty, especially after dark.

But this fall, the CBD's volunteers must first complete a variety of tasks—including exploring how much various goods and services will dent the CBD budget. The money must be spent in four major categories: beautification, cleanliness, security, and promotion of the neighborhood.

Niemann said the CBD steering committee has started "going out to companies to get comparison costs." The group will survey such things as "how much it will cost to put in flower baskets or to secure trees, [and] how much it will cost if we wanted to clean the sidewalks once a week, so when the board does sit down and comes together in January, [it] will have the information" needed to make informed decisions, she said.

August elections also saw property owners approve CBDs in the Castro, the Mission, Fisherman's Wharf, and the Tenderloin. Their creation lured Mayor Gavin Newsom, District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, a bevy of other City Hall heavyweights, and neighborhood activists to Fresca Restaurant Aug. 8 for a congratulatory news conference.

Yenne and Niemann said Noe Valley's CBD came about because of a yearlong grassroots effort that involved their two organizations, the East & West of Castro Club, longtime residents, and newcomers to the neighborhood. "We even had Democrats and Republicans working together," said Niemann.

The Noe Valley CBD, however, has its opponents. One is Harry Aleo, a longtime 24th Street property owner, who has posted a sign in the window of his Twin Peaks Properties realty office criticizing

the CBD. In an interview, Aleo complained that affected property owners did not receive adequate notice about the election and that many of them didn't cast ballots. He said a new vote should be required "and this travesty corrected."

Aleo said he would not initiate a campaign for a new referendum, which would require a simple majority of CBD property owners to petition for a new election. But "if someone wants to take up the battle," Aleo said, "I'd certainly contribute money to it."

Close to 170 property owners in the district participated in the election, according to Niemann. Their votes were weighted based on the percentage of the assessment they will pay. The CBD extends along 24th Street from Chattanooga Street to Douglass Street, and also includes two blocks of Castro Street.

Niemann said the CBD steering committee, which previously met every two weeks, would resume its working session this fall. The group plans to name an interim board for the Noe Valley Association, which then will make preparations for board elections and future operations.

The size of the board has yet to be determined. The majority of board seats, 80 percent, will go to property owners within the CBD. The remainder is reserved for merchants or residents within the district.

Funds to finance the district will come from extra assessments paid by all property owners within the Noe Valley CBD. The money will be collected in their December property tax bill—and again in April—and given to the CBD in January. Niemann said the funds will be placed in a Noe Valley bank.

"The money is controlled by the property owners and business owners in the community," said Yenne. She stressed that "no money goes to the city" and that "all the money collected stays in Noe Valley."



City CarShare Adds A Car to Noe's Fleet

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing, maintenance, and a guaranteed parking spot at the end of the day—but drivers are responsible for their own parking tickets.

Since its inception, CarShare has expanded from a handful of lime-green Volkswagon Beetles at about a dozen sites to a fleet that now includes more than 90 compacts, wagons, pickup trucks, and hybrids at over 45 Bay Area "pods." Crowley says the program currently serves about 4,000 members in San Francisco, Berkeley, and Oakland.

Local Groups Paved the Way

The new Noe Valley location is the result of a joint effort by the Noe Valley Ministry, District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, and the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (of which City CarShare is a member).

"We believe in the environmental and ecological advantages of fewer cars," said Ministry pastor Rev. Keenan Kelsey, who encouraged American Parking Management, which operates the church's lot, to accommodate CarShare. "Our mission is to create community, and community is based on a concept of sharing resources, particularly in an urban environment."

Three years ago, local merchants opposed CarShare's proposal to house two cars at the municipal lot between Radio Shack and Le Zinc, then the only parking lot along the 24th Street commercial strip. But with the opening of the Ministry's new lot, business owners now hope the program can help relieve the neighborhood's parking shortage.

"Having a City CarShare vehicle available for area residents will help alleviate

auto congestion and demand for parking spaces, making 24th Street that much more accessible and attractive for shoppers and diners visiting Noe Valley," said Carol Yenne, president of the Merchants Association.

Farmers' Market Has Keys

To accommodate the Noe Valley Farmers' Market, which occupies the lot on Saturday mornings, market volunteers have taken on the task of moving and returning the new wagon if it's not in use.

"We're delighted to support them," said Farmers' Market board member John Friedman. "City CarShare offers a convenient, low-cost way to drive that's better for the environment."

For those living on Noe Valley's eastern edge, CarShare just placed another new Scion in the parking lot across from the BART station at 24th and Mission. Other nearby "pods" are located at 18th and Collingwood, the Glen Park BART Station, and 20th and Valencia. The New Mission Bartlett Garage, on 22nd between Valencia and Bartlett, houses five vehicles including a pickup truck.

Crowley says CarShare is eager to put more vehicles in the neighborhood if suitable spaces can be found. "We would like to do more in Noe Valley," she says. "Maybe someone has a lot behind their shop we could use."

For more information about City CarShare or to become a member, visit www.citycarshare.org or call 415-995-8588. To suggest potential new locations, contact info@citycarshare.org or call 415-995-8588, ext. 306.



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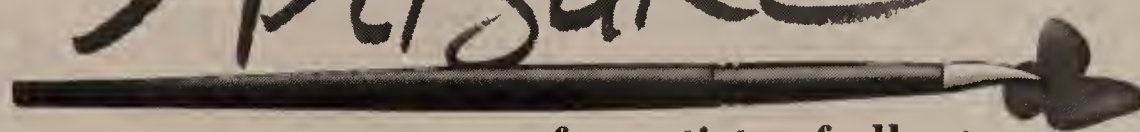
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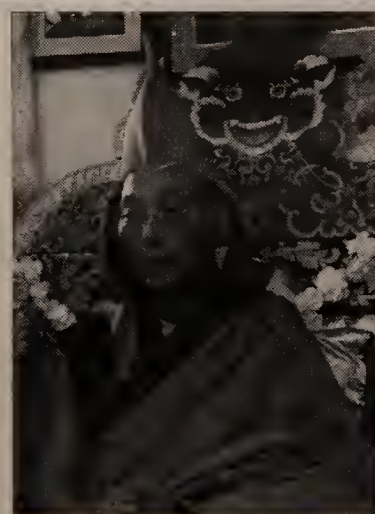
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Bethany Pastor Nobu Hanaoka

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

60th anniversary of the bombing, and he thinks revitalizing the antinuclear movement is imperative.

"The general public may be under the impression that we're no longer under a nuclear threat because the Cold War has ended. But we are, in fact, under a greater threat of nuclear disaster because of the destructive power of the nuclear weapons that we have now," he points out. "The Hiroshima bomb was 40 kilotons. But the smallest ICBM today carries three nuclear bombs with a total destructive power of 180 megatons. We, the U.S., have at least 10,000 such weapons, and the rest of the world combined has another 10,000 that we know of, so the destructive power is definitely increasing and so is the efficiency of carrying such weapons."

It is faith, not fear of annihilation, that informs Hanaoka's life, however. He attributes this to a sister who, like he, survived the radiation exposure. "She was a Christian, and she wanted to make sure that I had some positive understanding of life because the experiences within the family were so tragic. She took me to church at least twice a week: Sunday service and Wednesday prayers. So the church was my life, and when I was in high school I decided I would become a pastor, knowing that there are so many other people who needed to have hope and faith in humanity as well as in God," he recalls.

Hanaoka, who was then an American Baptist, majored in theology in college and came to the U.S. in 1970 to study at Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester,

Pa., where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had also studied. Later, while pursuing a Ph.D. at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, he was appointed part-time pastor at a United Methodist church in Albany. "I became familiar with the United Methodist theology and was really attracted to it, so that's why I switched my affiliation," he says.

Hanaoka is interested in bringing to Bethany a national movement called Shalom, a ministry that collaborates with neighborhood groups to make positive changes, attracting new members as a result. But first, his 175-member congregation is going to have to decide what neighborhood they're actually going to be in.

"There are three options before the membership right now," Hanaoka says. "One is to move to 2299 Market Street [a long-empty lot] and build something there. The second option is to remain where we are and do some extensive renovations to meet the seismic requirements, and the third option is to move to another, already existing building."

The congregation will be voting their preference this month or next, he says. "We received a feasibility study, and a committee studied the options and made a report. Now, people are thinking it over. There's no way of knowing what they'll decide."

In any event, Hanaoka appreciates the warm welcome he's received in Noe Valley, and he promises to keep us informed about what his congregation—proud to be on the front lines of the struggle for human rights—decides to do next.



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The Cost of Living in Noe

Sizzling Summer for House Sales

By Corrie M. Anders

If owners of household moving companies seemed especially chipper this summer, perhaps even displaying flashes of irrational exuberance, it was for good reason: they had a job bonanza in Noe Valley.

Their giddy mood was a spillover from a red-hot real estate market in which an astonishing 39 single-family homes closed escrow in June and July. The transactions surpassed last year's impressive June-July total of 36 sales and were considerably higher than in the same time period in 2003, when 26 sales were recorded.

Buyers were so intent on getting a home in Noe Valley that they paid 15 percent more than the sellers' asking price. The willingness to pay such hefty premiums shows that house shoppers were not buying any bubble talk—at least for now.

"When we have 39 properties sold, at 15 percent above asking, that tells us the demand is still up there," says Randall Kostick, sales manager for Zephyr Real

Estate on 24th Street. "We'll know the market is cooling a bit when we see the sales price going down" to the asking price.

There were other indications that people were willing to give the shirts off their backs for Noe Valley real estate. The average sales price for a detached home was more than \$1.2 million, markedly higher than a year ago. And buyers snapped up homes as soon as a "For Sale" sign was posted, closing escrow in about three weeks.

Meanwhile, the *b* word continues to be bandied about by both the media and the real estate industry, says Kostick. Everyone is still wondering "Is there a bubble or is there not a bubble?" he says. "I've read everything from 'We've just begun' to 'We're about to burst.'"

Kostick says any bubble would likely hit the housing speculators first. Those are the people who buy and fix houses, then quickly sell them during a period of rapid appreciation. He says the speculators "may be out of business soon," because despite the robust June and July activity, the market is "calming a little bit."

"If you don't buy your home to make a quick buck, you're in fine shape," Kostick says. "But if you bought to make a quick buck, the quick buck isn't there anymore."

Big-Ticket Purchases on Vicksburg

The most expensive detached home in July sold for nearly \$2.3 million. The house, located in the first block of Vicksburg Street, has four bedrooms and 3½ baths. June's most expensive sale involved

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
July 2005	24	\$750,000	\$2,279,000	\$1,258,037	21	115%
June 2005	15	\$805,000	\$1,862,500	\$1,214,767	24	114%
May 2005	15	\$907,000	\$2,245,000	\$1,297,553	29	113%
July 2004	14	\$722,000	\$1,250,000	\$984,500	34	110%
June 2004	22	\$740,000	\$1,985,000	\$1,092,773	24	110%
Condominiums						
July 2005	7	\$775,000	\$1,210,500	\$1,030,500	38	108%
June 2005	15	\$712,500	\$1,342,000	\$925,367	32	114%
May 2005	9	\$525,000	\$1,114,000	\$914,110	21	116%
July 2004	7	\$595,000	\$1,115,000	\$800,300	25	109%
June 2004	10	\$575,000	\$950,000	\$862,331	20	110%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
July 2005	4	\$1,190,000	\$2,279,000	\$1,706,000	45	108%
June 2005	3	\$985,000	\$1,436,093	\$1,256,364	44	107%
May 2005	7	\$1,215,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,431,943	36	104%
July 2004	6	\$770,000	\$1,600,000	\$1,160,000	48	110%
June 2004	9	\$755,000	\$1,285,000	\$1,079,000	27	110%
5+-unit buildings						
July 2005	2	\$1,700,000	\$1,900,000	\$1,800,000	57	107%
June 2005	1	\$1,975,000	\$1,975,000	\$1,975,000	50	104%
May 2005	2	\$1,550,000	\$1,890,000	\$1,682,500	39	102%
July 2004	0	—	—	—	—	—
June 2004	1	\$1,625,000	\$1,625,000	\$1,625,000	53	102%

* Sales figures include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. In this survey, Noe Valley is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The Voice thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyr-re.com) for supplying the data. NVV 9/05

A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents**

Type of Unit	Number in Sample	Range of Rents August 2005	Average Rent August 2005	Average Rent June 2005
Studio	4	\$ 995 – \$1,250	\$1,149 / mo.	\$1,099 / mo.
1-bedroom	20	\$1,250 – \$2,100	\$1,588 / mo.	\$1,549 / mo.
2-bedroom	23	\$1,699 – \$3,600	\$2,359 / mo.	\$2,104 / mo.
3-bedroom	7	\$2,495 – \$3,975	\$3,274 / mo.	\$2,650 / mo.
4-bedroom	1	\$6,200 – \$6,200	\$6,200 / mo.	\$6,200 / mo.

** This survey was based on a sample of 55 Noe Valley listings appearing on www.craigslist.com Aug. 12–17, 2005. The previous sample of 52 listings was collected June 13–16. NVV 9/05



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POLICE BEAT

Police Beat is a roundup of crimes and other police incidents in Noe Valley. "Noe Valley" is defined as the area bordered by Grand View Avenue, 21st, Fair Oaks, and 30th streets. This month's crime log was culled from July 2005 incident reports provided to the Voice by Mission and Ingleside police stations.

Friday, July 1

Theft by Use of a Credit Card: Reported 12:01 a.m., 400 block of Clipper Street
Lost or Stolen License Plate: Reported 9 a.m., 300 block of Liberty Street
Burglary of Residence, Forcible Entry: Reported 10 a.m., 100 block of Romaine Street
Malicious Mischief, Vandalism of Vehicles: Reported 5 p.m., Dolores and 29th streets
Lost Property: Reported 9 p.m., 24th and Church streets

Saturday, July 2

Grand Theft of Property: Reported 12:01 a.m., 200 block of Grand View Avenue
Lost Property: Reported 11:45 a.m., Castro and Clipper streets
Battery, Possession of a Loaded Firearm: Reported noon, 4200 block of 24th Street; arrest, booked
Petty Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 6 p.m., 1700 block of Church Street
Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 7 p.m., 23rd and Fair Oaks streets
Lost or Stolen License Plate: Reported 9 p.m., 4000 block of 21st Street
Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 10:25 p.m., 500 block of Diamond Street

Sunday, July 3

Stolen Automobile: Reported 12:30 a.m., 3900 block of 21st Street
Burglary, Unlawful Entry: Reported 2:17 a.m., first block of 29th Street
Traffic Violation: Reported 8:47 a.m., 21st and Castro streets; arrest, booked
Lost Property: Reported noon, 24th and Noe streets
Harassing Phone Calls: Reported 2 p.m., 2200 block of Castro Street
Malicious Mischief, Graffiti: Reported 2:30 p.m., Clipper and Douglass streets
Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 4 p.m., Church and 26th streets
Petty Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 9 p.m., first block of Vicksburg Street
Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 9:30 p.m., 300 block of 29th Street

Monday, July 4

Lost or Stolen License Plate: Reported noon, 1600 block of Diamond Street

Tuesday, July 5

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism of Vehicles: 12:01 a.m., 1500 block of Sanchez Street
Malicious Mischief, Vandalism: Reported 2:10 p.m., 200 block of Fair Oaks Street
Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 6:30 p.m., Noe and Clipper streets
Lost or Stolen License Plate: Reported 9:30 p.m., 300 block of Grand View Avenue
Trespassing, Injured Person Aided: Reported 10:13 p.m., 500 block of 27th Street
Attempted Homicide with a Gun: Reported 10:57 p.m., 24th and Guerrero streets; arrest, booked

Wednesday, July 6

Attempted Theft from Locked Vehicle: Reported 2 p.m., 23rd and Hoffman streets
Threats Against Life: Reported 6:30 p.m., 300 block of Eureka Street

Thursday, July 7

Suspicious Occurrence: Reported 7 a.m., 900 block of Diamond Street
Fraudulent Credit Application: Reported 4:30 p.m., 1500 block of Dolores Street
Petty Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 9 p.m., 21st and Collingwood streets

Friday, July 8

Lost Property: Reported 7 p.m., 25th and Church streets
Traffic Violation and Resisting Arrest: Reported 7:09 p.m., 800 block of Church Street; arrest, booked
Attempted Theft from Locked Vehicle: Reported 9 p.m., 200 block of Duncan Street

Saturday, July 9

Gang Activity; Robbery and Aggravated Assault with a Knife: Reported 12:31 a.m., first block of Elizabeth Street; juveniles booked

Grand Theft from a Locked Auto: Reported 9 p.m., Church and 29th streets

Sunday, July 10

Stolen Automobile: Reported 1 p.m., 28th and Sanchez streets

Monday, July 11

Driver's License Suspended or Revoked: Reported 10:55 a.m., Clipper and Douglass streets; arrest, booked

Trespassing; Under Influence of Alcohol in a Public Place: Reported 2:40 p.m., 1200 block of Dolores Street; arrest, booked

Battery; Injury to Telephone Lines: Reported 6 p.m., 400 block of Duncan Street

Petty Theft from Unlocked Auto: Reported 10 a.m., 26th and Dolores streets

Tuesday, July 12

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 7 p.m., 3900 block of Cesar Chavez Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 9 p.m., 200 block of 27th Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 9 p.m., Valley and Church streets

Wednesday, July 13

Burglary of Apartment House, Forcible Entry: Reported 12:01 a.m., 3600 block of 21st Street

Grand Theft of Property: Reported 8 a.m., 3700 block of Cesar Chavez Street

Burglary of Residence, Unlawful Entry: Reported 9:15 a.m., 1900 block of Diamond Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 3:15 p.m., Elizabeth and Sanchez streets

Thursday, July 14

Assault with Caustic Chemicals: Reported 12:10 a.m., Dolores and 23rd streets

Attempted Theft from Locked Vehicle: Reported 7 a.m., 3600 block of 24th Street

Petty Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 11 a.m., 23rd and Noe streets

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 9:30 p.m., 22nd and Eureka streets

Petty Theft from Locked Auto, Theft by Use of Credit Card: Reported 9:45 p.m., 25th and Vicksburg streets

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Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 10:30 p.m., 1000 block of Dolores Street

Friday, July 15

Burglary of Residence Under Construction, Unlawful Entry: Reported 6 p.m., 400 block of Elizabeth Street

Battery: Reported 5:15 p.m., 1600 block of Dolores Street

Saturday, July 16

Found Property: Reported 3:52 a.m., 1400 block of Church Street

Found Property: Reported 4:44 p.m., 24th and Sanchez streets

Sunday, July 17

Burglary, Residence Under Construction, Unlawful Entry: Reported noon, 4100 block of 23rd Street

Monday, July 18

Burglary of Apartment House, Unlawful Entry: Reported 8 a.m., 1000 block of Church Street

Aggravated Assault with Bodily Force: Reported 9:02 p.m., 1200 block of Church Street; arrest, booked

Burglary of Residence, Unlawful Entry: Reported 10 p.m., 1400 block of Noe Street

Tuesday, July 19

Petty Theft of Property, Threats Against Life: Reported 4:30 a.m., 3500 block of 25th Street

Petty Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 7 a.m., Diamond and Elizabeth streets

Wednesday, July 20

Strongarm Robbery on the Street: Reported 1 a.m., Noe and 24th streets

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism of Vehicles: Reported 2 p.m., 800 block of Church Street

Make or Pass Fictitious Checks; Forgery, Driver's License or ID Card: Reported 4:15 p.m., 3900 block of 24th Street

Thursday, July 21

Burglary of Residence, Unlawful Entry: Reported 8:15 a.m., 700 block of 27th Street

Petty Theft, Shoplifting: Reported 10:45 a.m., 3900 block of 24th Street; arrest, booked

Attempted Robbery of Commercial Establishment with Bodily Force: Reported 6:45 p.m., 1000 block of Church Street

Lost Property: Reported 8 p.m., 400 block

HOW TO CONTACT THE SFPD

Noe Valley residents and merchants are invited to attend police-community meetings held monthly in both the Mission and Ingleside police districts.

Ingleside meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John Young Lane, off the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue. Mission community meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street.

Noe Valleyans who live or work north of Cesar Chavez Street (within the Mission Police District) may also report recurring problems by phoning Mission Station at 558-5400 or e-mailing SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us. To report anonymously on drugs, gangs, or other crimes, call Mission Station's nontraceable hotline at 552-4558.

Residents and merchants in Upper Noe Valley—south of Cesar Chavez Street—may contact Ingleside Station by calling 404-4000 or e-mailing SFPDInglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us.

The Ingleside anonymous tip line is 587-8984. To sign up for Ingleside Station's daily crime e-newsletter, e-mail Captain Paul Chignell at Paul_Chignell@ci.sf.ca.us.

To report a crime in progress, call 911. To report a non-emergency situation in San Francisco, call 553-0123.

of Valley Street

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism of Vehicles: Reported 9:30 p.m., 1100 block of Dolores Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 11 p.m., 3700 block of 23rd Street

Friday, July 22

Stolen Automobile: Reported 6 a.m., 1300 block of Douglass Street

Attempted Theft of Bicycle: Reported 7:30 p.m., 22nd and Church streets

Malicious Mischief, Graffiti: Reported 11 p.m., 200 block of Clipper Street

Saturday, July 23

Grand Theft of Property: Reported 9 p.m., 500 block of Grand View Avenue

Sunday, July 24

Burglary of Residence, Unlawful Entry: Reported 12:30 p.m., 500 block of Hill Street

Burglary of Apartment House, Unlawful Entry: Reported 6 p.m., 700 block of Diamond Street

Monday, July 25

Burglary of Apartment House, Forcible Entry: Reported 10:30 p.m., 500 block of Hill Street

Stolen Automobile: Reported 11:30 p.m., 500 block of 29th Street

Tuesday, July 26

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 9 a.m., first block of Chattanooga Street

Stolen Truck: Reported 10 a.m., 500 block of Diamond Street

Burglary of Residence, Unlawful Entry: Reported 11:30 p.m., first block of Elizabeth Street

Wednesday, July 27

Petty Theft from Unlocked Auto: Reported 6:45 a.m., 1800 block of Church Street

Battery: Reported 10 a.m., 300 block of Duncan Street

Battery: Reported 5:30 p.m., 100 block of Valley Street; arrest, booked

Thursday, July 28

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 8:40 a.m., 4100 block of Cesar Chavez Street

Friday, July 29

Check Forgery, Felony: Reported 3 p.m., 4200 block of 22nd Street; arrest, booked

Stolen Automobile: Reported 8 p.m., 400 block of Collingwood Street

Stolen Automobile: Reported 9:30 p.m., 200 block of Collingwood Street

Indecent Exposure: Reported 11 p.m., 100 block of 29th Street

The Voice thanks Mission Police Officer Andrew MacIlrath for providing incident information and reports for this month's Police Beat. The reports were summarized by Voice writer Karol Barske.

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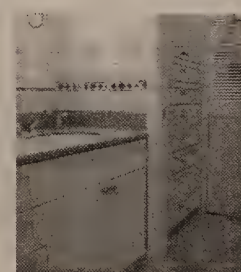
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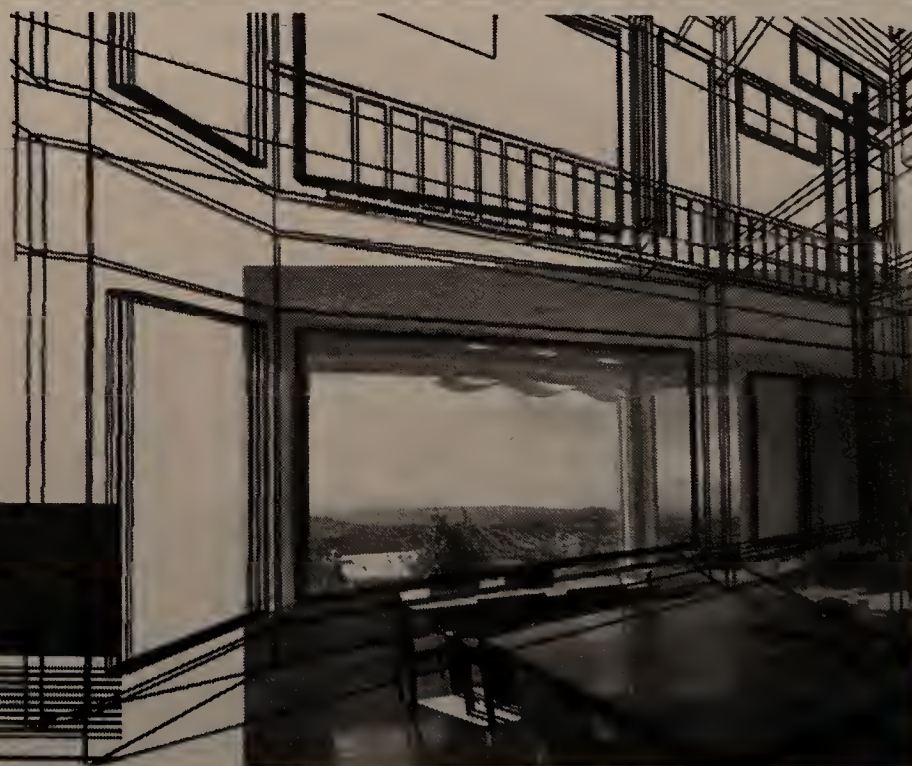
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SHORT TAKES

Say Goodbye to Old Library

As most local residents know, the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library is slated to close this fall for a remodeling that could take up to two years. In preparation for the event, the city will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 7 p.m., at the branch at 451 Jersey Street.

Attendees will have an opportunity to hear Alice Carey, the project architect, describe the latest renovation plans. The project's goal is to reduce the seismic risk of the 89-year-old Andrew Carnegie library and bring it up to code, while preserving the building's historic details.

Several of the San Francisco Public Library's top brass will be on hand at the meeting, including City Librarian Luis Herrera. "I'm pleased that the renovation project for the Noe Valley Library is finally near at hand," he says. "We anticipate closing sometime this fall, likely in October, and then reopening in late 2007, but the close will be worth the wait. In the meantime, interim services, including bookmobile service, will be provided at various locations in Noe Valley."

During the renovation, the library's regular "lapsits" and preschool story time will be held on Wednesday mornings at the Upper Noe Recreation Center on Day Street. The bookmobile will be parked two to three days per week in front of St. Philip's School, at Elizabeth and Diamond streets. Both the lapsits and the bookmobile will be staffed by Noe Valley's branch librarians.

Voters passed a bond measure securing funds for the structural work in November 2000. Funds for the building's interior fixtures, such as furniture and computers, are being raised by the neighborhood. For more details on the renovation, call the Library's chief of branches at 557-4353 or the bond program manager at 557-4354. To learn about the fundraising campaign, call Kim Drew at 643-4695.

A Harvest of New Sponsors

Over the summer, Sterling Bank and Trust plunked down some big bucks—\$5,000 in fact—to become a major sponsor of Noe Valley's first-ever Harvest Festival. Zephyr Real Estate agreed to sponsor a pumpkin patch, and Guerrero Street Gardens will foot the bill for gardening activities and contests. But more sponsors are needed for the October event, says festival co-organizer Richard May.

According to May, by late August the organizers had raised \$9,000 in cash and in-kind donations and \$9,000 in booth fees. With a budget of \$20,000, they're on the

right track, but festival organizers would love to do better than break even. May speculates that, with a few more sponsors, they might be able to use the funds from souvenir sales to spring for a neighborhood beautification project. "So everyone should buy lots of T-shirts, tambourines, wine glasses, and coffee mugs," says May.

The fair is set for Saturday, Oct. 22, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., along 24th Street in "downtown" Noe Valley. It will feature more than 60 booths and five bands performing live onstage. The festival will also coincide with the annual hayride sponsored by the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association.

Other sponsors include Friends of Noe Valley, B.J. Droubi Realty, Artery, Forbeadin', Makras Real Estate, Urban Cellars, Plumpjack, and Tully's Coffee.

Visit the Harvest Festival web site at www.nvharvestfestival.com for the latest scoop on entertainment. To find out about sponsorship, contact May at 206-0231 or e-mail rambooks@pacbell.net.

Healer Reading in the 'Hood

Author and physician Michael Blumlein is doing Noe Valley proud with his new book, *The Healer*. It has a fantasy setting, but don't let that scare you—it's a novel about the experiences of a man gifted with amazing powers to heal.

On Saturday, Sept. 10, at 7 p.m., the Douglass Street author will read from the book and sign copies at Cover to Cover bookstore at 1307 Castro Street near 24th.

Blumlein, who has lived in the neighborhood since 1971, is also the author of *X, Y*—a 1993 bestseller about a female stripper who wakes up to find that she's a man living in a woman's body.

Authors All Over the Map

Be the first on the block to own a copy of the San Francisco Literary Map—and witness some literary history in the making—by attending a reading with several renowned Bay Area authors. The event, a benefit for both 826 Valencia and Litquake, takes place on Wednesday, Sept. 7, at 7 p.m.

Attendees get more than a map. Authors including Michael Chabon, Ayelet Waldman, Kirk Read, and Michelle Tea will pay homage to the neighborhoods from which they draw inspiration, including the Mission and Castro districts. Musician Jonathan Richman will provide entertainment.

The illustrated literary map includes a timeline of San Francisco's literary history; literary landmarks; locations of bookstores, publishers, journals, and magazines; annual literary events; ongoing poetry readings and open mikes; and listings of literary organizations.

The celebration and benefit will be held at the Swedish American Hall at 2174 Market Street. Admission is \$15.

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Sterling Bank's Steve Adams (second from right) presents Richard May, Donna Davis, Sara Butz, Paula Benton, and Sara's dog Angus with a \$5,000 donation for the Harvest Festival, coming up on Oct. 22. The bank is a newcomer to 24th Street.

Photo by Pamela Gerord



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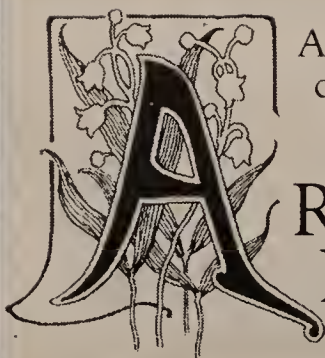
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SHORT TAKES

Music Fest at Noe Courts

Noe Courts, the small city park on 24th Street between Douglass and Elizabeth streets, will be the venue for a free "Music in the Parks" event on Saturday, Sept. 10, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sponsored by the Friends of Noe Courts Park in conjunction with the San Francisco Parks Trust, the event will feature live music, food and wine, a raffle, activities for children, and free prizes and gifts for dogs and kids. People of all ages and their well-behaved dogs are welcome.

Several local bands will perform Dixieland jazz, blues, and rock. Shops including Just for Fun, Belgano Chocolatier, the Animal Company, and Cooks Boulevard have contributed raffle prizes, and the Friends of Noe Valley has supplied a Bounce House for the kids.

Proceeds from raffle tickets and other sales will benefit the future renovation of Noe Courts Park, which sports a playground, tennis and basketball courts, and a lawn for picnicking and playing fetch.

"I think that having a really fun event at Noe Courts will highlight the role that the park has in bringing neighbors together as part of a community," says Eden Halbert of Friends of Noe Courts Park.

For information about either the event or the park, send an e-mail to noecourts@gmail.com.

Kids Party at Castro Fair

The annual Castro Street Fair is coming up, and it's a party that many Noe Valleyans wouldn't miss—even if they have to hike over the Castro Street hill. The 32nd annual event will take place on Sunday, Oct. 2, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the intersection of Market and Castro streets.

This year, Noe Valley's Bethany United Methodist Church will make the party fun for all ages by holding special activities for kids. From 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., the church will sponsor a bouncy castle, outdoor sports, and face-painting for the little ones, in the garden at the corner of Market and Noe streets.

The Castro Street Fair is a free event (donations gladly accepted) that features non-stop outdoor dancing; booths showcasing merchants, artisans, and non-profit groups; and abundant food and entertainment. To find out more, visit www.castrostreetfair.org.

A Bird Is a Bird Is a Bird

There's inventory aplenty at Bird & Beckett Books & Records in Glen Park, but the bookstore also has a roster of cultural events chosen to feature local artists.

The Henry Irvin Trio performs jazz on the first Sunday of every month. The trio has "a Hammond B-3 organ sound, an instrument that was built in the '50s, and Henry, now in his 70s, is a kind of local treasure," says Bird & Beckett owner Eric Whittington. The show starts at 6 p.m., and includes a vocalists' open mike.

Another jazz group, the Chuck Peterson Sextet, performs on Fridays at 5:30 p.m. and creates what Whittington calls a "neighborhood jazz party."

In addition, the store is home to two book clubs. One meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., and focuses on fiction or other recently published books. This month (Sept. 7) the topic will be *The Book of Salt* by Monique Truong. The other group meets the second Thursday at 7:30 p.m. and reads up on current social and political issues. The book featured Sept. 8 is *The Republican Noise Machine* by David Brock.

Not to be forgotten are poetry readings. On Monday, Sept. 12, at 7:30 p.m., poets

Diane di Prima and Maria Gillan will read from their work. And on Sept. 20, also at 7:30 p.m., di Prima will return to host "Modest Proposal," a chapbook poetry reading featuring several local poets.

Bird & Beckett is located at 2788 Diamond Street, at Chenery. For more information, call 586-3733.

Photographer Honors Veterans

A photography exhibit at San Francisco City Hall by longtime Noe Valley resident Tom Graves is on display through Oct. 28. The exhibit, titled "Heroes All!," features black-and-white portraits of World War II veterans and accompanying interviews.

"I'm a commercial photographer," Graves explains. "I was exploring a couple of ideas I had for a project for myself, and about the same time I started having lunch with a group of veterans. I thought, Wouldn't it be terrific if other people could get to know them as I have?... They really have amazing experiences to share."

The idea evolved into 150 photographs and interviews. Not all of them are on display at City Hall, so Graves hopes to turn them into a book someday. "I have enough material for two or three books," he says.

The City Hall display includes many Bay Area residents, such as mystery writer Tony Hillerman, filmmaker D.A. Pennebaker, and U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, a Medal of Honor recipient. To view the exhibit, visit the ground floor of San Francisco City Hall at 1 Carlton B. Goodlett Place, located between Polk and Van Ness and Grove and McAllister.

Volunteer Tutors Needed

Children in the Bay Area need help learning to read, and the Jewish Coalition for Literacy offers free training and support to volunteer tutors. Each tutor is paired with a child in kindergarten through third grade.

"There are no special qualifications for tutors," says Julia Stone of JCL. Everyone who wants to help children improve their reading is invited to participate.

Training sessions will be held in San Francisco on Thursday, Sept. 8; Monday, Sept. 19; and Wednesday, Sept. 21. To find out more, visit www.jclread.org, e-mail jstone@jcrc.org, or call 977-7445.

Call for Artists

A law firm specializing in entertainment law is asking for Noe Valley artists to contribute to a neighborhood-centered art show this fall. The Austin Law Group and the Office of Marilyn Kalman, located at 799 Castro Street, has been showcasing photographers, filmmakers, sculptors, and painters in its space for the past four years. They plan to schedule the neighborhood exhibit after they've confirmed the participants. "We have not had a Noe Valley artist call before, so this would be a first for us," says Austin Law Group's Thomas Landry.

For information about entering work in the show, e-mail mojavepen@yahoo.com.

Sweet Home San Francisco

They may seem few and far between, but there are some people in San Francisco who were born and raised here. The second annual San Francisco Native Day Jamboree brings together folks who share the bond of a lifetime in the city.

The jamboree will be held at the Irish Cultural Center at 2700 45th Avenue on Friday, Sept. 16, from 6 to 11 p.m. Food will be served and attendees can dance to the tunes of the Jazzaholics. Other surprise entertainment is planned.

Tickets are \$55. For more information, visit www.sfnativejamboree.com, e-mail linda@sfnativejamboree.com, or call 775-4421.

This month's Short Takes were written by Erin O'Brian and Laura McHale Holland.

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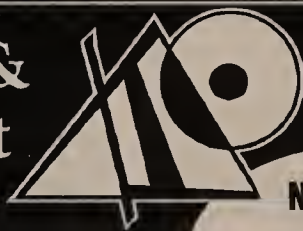
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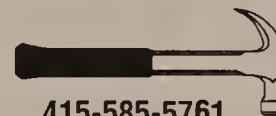
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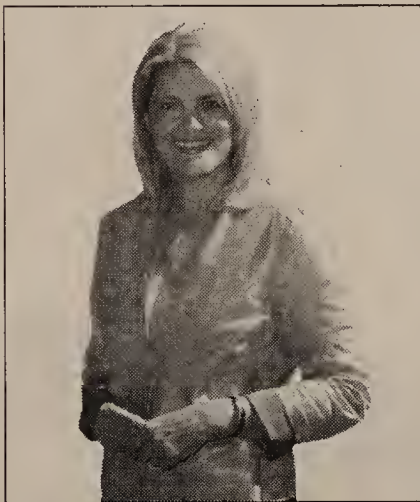
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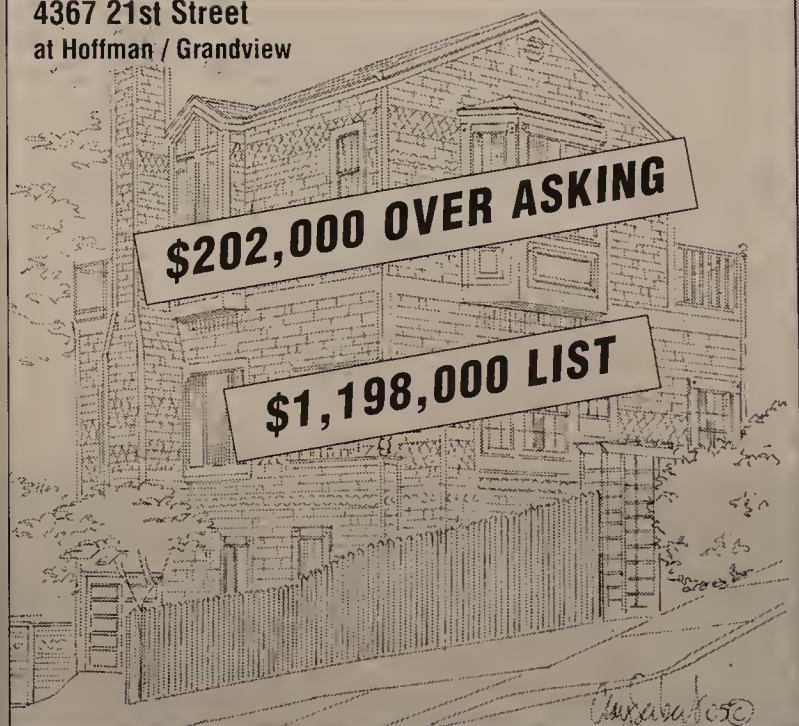
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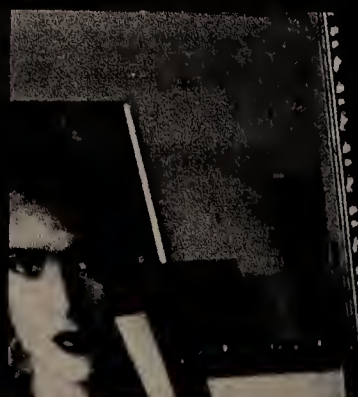
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Noe Valley Resident Champions Race For the Cure

By Lorraine Sanders

When Joni Cassell discovered she had breast cancer, she was at home alone on an ordinary day in March 1998.

"It was not very dramatic," says Cassell, 43, who has lived with canine companion Newton on Fair Oaks Street for the past four years. "My first reaction was, it is what it is."

That a phone call announcing a cancer diagnosis would have fazed the then-36-year-old Cassell so little may seem odd at first, but, she explains, her mind was not on the illness. It was on the cure.

"You know what? I didn't have time to mess around. I didn't have time to cry and say, 'Why me? Why me?'" I wanted to be productive about my next steps," she says.

And productive she was. Between receiving the diagnosis after a routine mammogram (her first) and undergoing surgery to remove the lump in her breast about a month later, Cassell foraged the Internet for breast cancer information, arranged for two doctors to review her case, took the case before the UCSF Cancer Board, and selected a surgeon after researching many potential doctors. As the surgery date approached, Cassell says staying busy helped her cope. Her natural optimism didn't hurt, either.

"I knew intuitively that I was going to be okay," she says.

After surgery, Cassell underwent six months of chemotherapy. Then she launched into a five-year regimen of estrogen-blocking medication.

Seven years later, Cassell, a marketing consultant, is still focused on finding a cure for breast cancer, even though she's



Joni Cassell exercises in preparation for the Race for the Cure, a Sept. 25 walk/run along the Bay that will help fund breast cancer research and treatment.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

conquered her own disease for now. After many years of volunteering in other capacities, she is co-chairing the 2005 San Francisco Race for the Cure, the top fundraising event of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, founded by Nancy Komen Brinker in memory of her sister, Susan, who died at age 36.

Now in its 15th year, the local race is part of a nationwide series of over 100 races that count more than 1.4 million participants. It is the world's largest group of 5K fundraising fitness walk/runs. Money raised from the San Francisco race funds Bay Area breast cancer education, research, screening, and treatment programs, and supports the foundation's research grant program.

On race day, it's hard to miss the stream of runners and walkers, most of whom wear pink for the occasion. While many don pink T-shirts, more adventurous participants show up in eye-catching pink turbans, pajamas, and other costumes.

Many in the race wear or carry signs to remember lost loved ones, celebrate survivors, or support women currently battling breast cancer.

Cassell attended her first race in 1999. "It was like nothing I'd ever experienced, and I was so shocked and amazed and felt so supported all at the same time that it brought on emotions I didn't expect."

Still, she shied away from wearing the pink T-shirt traditionally worn by breast cancer survivors during the event. "It's kind of a personal thing," she says.

Cassell has changed her mind in recent years. "I just realized that it was my responsibility to inform other women," she explains. Wearing the "Survivor" shirt during the race was the most visible way for her to accomplish that.

Although an estimated 95 percent of women diagnosed with contained breast cancer (cancer that has not spread to the lymph nodes) will still be alive in five years, the disease remains the second

leading cause of cancer death among women, according to the Komen Foundation. The key is early detection, but many women are uninformed about the importance of self breast exams and annual mammograms.

"We've still got a lot of work to do because there are still far too many women who go undiagnosed. A good portion are underserved because the area they live in can't support outreach to those women and the families of those women," Cassell says.

In 2005 alone, it is estimated that 211,240 cases of breast cancer will occur among U.S. women, according to the Komen Foundation. Of those cases, 40,410, or about 20 percent, are expected to die from the disease. It's those 40,410 women that inspire Cassell to continue working.

"[Breast cancer] might have been the best thing that ever happened to me," she says in her characteristically upbeat way. "Because now, I may make a difference."

This year's Race for the Cure takes place on Sunday, Sept. 25, starting at 8:30 a.m. at Crissy Field (Mason Street) in the Presidio. The course runs along the waterfront to the Golden Gate Bridge and back. Participants may either run a 5K course or complete a one-mile walk. The per-person entry fee is \$28 until Sept. 15 and \$35 afterwards. To register or request more information on the race, visit the Susan G. Komen Foundation online at www.sfkomen.org or call 415-397-8812.



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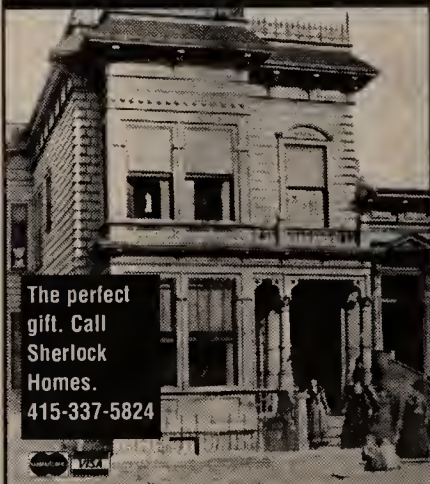
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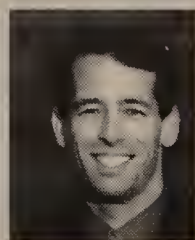
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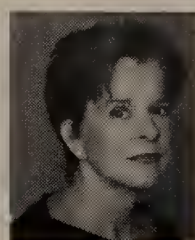
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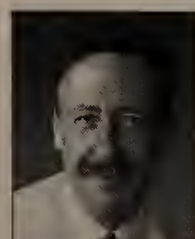
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• SEPTEMBER 2005 •

Now: VOLUNTEERS are needed for the Noe Valley Harvest Festival on Sat., Oct. 22, including monitors for the Slug Contest, the "Punkin Patch," the Treasure Hunt, and the Stroller Obstacle Course. Call Sara Butz, 826-3851.

Sept. 1 to 29: NOE STROLLS offers a Noe/Castro/Mission walk for babies and their caregivers on Thursdays, beginning at 11 am. Meet at Holey Bagel, 3872 24th St. www.noestrolls.com.

Sept. 1 to 29: Chris Fernie leads QIGONG classes on Thursdays, 6:30 to 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 305-4692.

Sept. 1 to 30: Chris Sequeira leads classes in TAI CHI. Mon. and Tues., 6 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.; Wed. and Fri., 10:15 am. Call 415-773-8185 or 650-756-6857 for location.

Sept. 1 to Oct. 28: Noe Valley resident TOM GRAVES exhibits "Heroes All," portraits and interviews honoring veterans of World War II. Mon. to Fri., 8 am to 8 pm. San Francisco City Hall Gallery, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place. 554-4000.

Sept. 2: St. Paul's Church hosts the annual BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS by Father Mario at 1 pm, on the front steps of Church. 221 Valley St. 648-7538.

Sept. 2 to 30: Theresa Garcia leads ROSEN METHOD movement classes. 8:30 am. Noe Valley Ministry, Upper Studio, 1021 Sanchez St. 812-9917.

Sept. 3: The ARCHER STRING BAND, with Steven Strauss on ukulele and Kerry Parker on cello bass, performs "twinkly oddities" from the 1920s, '30s, and '40s. 9:30 am to 1 pm. Noe Valley Farmers' Market, 24th Street between Sanchez and Vicksburg. 695-9299.

Sept. 3 to 24: Free SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK performs *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Presidio Parade Grounds. Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun. and Labor Day, 2:30 pm. 561-5500.

Sept. 4: Rocket DOG RESCUE parades adoptable dogs in front of Zephyr Real Estate. Noon to 4 pm. 4040 24th St. 642-4786.

Sept. 4: A film by Haskell Wexler, *From Wharf Rats to Lords of the Docks*, recounts the struggles of local union organizer HARRY BRIDGES. 5:30 pm. Palace of Fine Arts Theater, 3301 Lyon St. 392-4400.

Sept. 4: Hugh Stone and Gary Spear, owners of GRAYSTONE Wine & Liquor wrap up their 27 years in Noe Valley with a celebration at the Peaks bar. 6 to 9 pm. 1316 Castro St. 826-0100.

Sept. 4: DUB MISSION'S ninth anniversary celebration features Yossi Fine, Cosmic Rocker, and DJ Sep. 9 pm. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia St. 552-7788.

Sept. 4 and 5: On Sept. 4, the S.F. Bicycle Coalition hosts the Great San Francisco BIKE RIDE at 8 am, and the S.F. Grand Prix race at 10 am, both starting from Market Street at the Embarcadero. The Sept. 5 "Giro di San Francisco" race for the criterium championships runs from 8 am to 5 pm. 431-BIKE.

Sept. 4 and 18: City Guides offers a WALKING TOUR of the Mission Dolores neighborhood. Noon. Meet at the gold fire hydrant, on the corner of Church and 20th. 557-4266.

Sept. 6: Radar Reading, hosted by MICHELLE TEA, features Jessica Arendt, Stanya Kahn, Beth Lisick, and Harry Dodge. 6 to 7:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

Sept. 6 and 27: Preschool STORY TIME, for children 2 to 5, begins at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 355-5707.

Sept. 6 to 30: Physicians, staff, patients, and volunteers at St. Luke's Hospital participate in a multimedia ART SHOW. Mon. to Fri., 7 am to 7 pm. Montecito Medical Office Building lobby atrium, 1580 Valencia St. 641-6490.

Sept. 7: DONALD TRUMP, in person, will be signing autographs and introducing his Signature Collection for Men at Macy's Men's Store at Union Square. Noon.

Sept. 7: LITQUAKE features readings by Michael Chabon, Ayelet Waldman, Kirk Read, and Michelle Tea, and music by Jonathan Richman, to benefit the programs at 826 Valencia. 7 pm. Swedish American Hall, 2174 Market St. www.826valencia.org.

Sept. 7 to 18: The San Francisco FRINGE FESTIVAL includes "Lounge-Zilla," performed by the Oops Guys Comedy Troupe. For schedules, call 673-3847.

Sept. 8: "Fun, Friendly MUSIC AND MOVEMENT with Catherine" is a program for infants and toddlers up to age 4. 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 355-5707.



More than 200,000 books will be up for grabs at the Friends of the Library Book Sale running Sept. 29 to Oct. 2 at Ft. Mason.

Sept. 8: St. Luke's Hospital trains VOLUNTEERS the second Thursday of the month from 3 to 5 pm. 3555 Cesar Chavez St. 641-6538.

Sept. 8: An ACRYLIC PAINTING class at Artsake is held on six Thursdays, from 7 to 9 pm. 3961 24th St. 695-0506; www.artsakesf.com.

Sept. 8: The Bird & Beckett POLITICAL BOOK GROUP discusses David Brock's *The Republican Noise Machine*. 7:30 pm. 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

Sept. 8: SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE's free introductory party features demonstrations and instruction in lively jigs and reels. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9372 or 841-9456.

Sept. 8 to Oct. 13: "Mindful" is a group ART EXHIBITION at Creativity Explored. Reception, Sept. 8, 7 to 9 pm; Mon. to Fri., 10 am to 3 pm; Sat., 1 to 6 pm. 3245 16th St. 863-2108.

Sept. 9: Register by Sept. 9 for a Sept. 28 bus trip to APPLE FARMS in Placerville, sponsored by St. Paul's Church. Call Mary Richardson, 826-0845.

Sept. 10: Parents for Public Schools hosts a WORKSHOP on choosing schools, improving parent involvement, and fundraising in public schools. 9 am to noon. James Lick Middle School, 1220 Noe St. 468-7077.

Sept. 10: St. Mary's Medical Center hosts a free Community HEALTH FAIR, including screenings, demonstrations, and healthy snacks. 9 am to 2 pm. 450 Stanyan St. Reserve a space at 1-800-225-5637.

Sept. 10: Jeanie and Chuck's COUNTRY ROUNDUP performs bluegrass classics from 10:30 am to 1 pm at the Noe Valley Farmers' Market. 24th Street between Sanchez and Vicksburg. 695-9299.

Sept. 10: Artsake offers a five-week class, "CARTOONING and Comic Strip Art." Sat., 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. 3961 24th St. 695-0506; www.artsakesf.com.

Sept. 10: An introductory workshop to Middendorf BREATH WORK is led by Steven Feher and Steve Savage. 12:30 to 2:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry upstairs studio, 1021 Sanchez St. 568-1151.

Sept. 10: A free "Music in the Parks" CONCERT features rock, blues, and jazz, food and wine, a raffle, and kids activities including an inflatable "bounce house," to benefit the renovation of Noe Courts Park. 11 am to 3 pm. 24th and Douglass.

Sept. 10: MICHAEL BLUMLEIN signs his new novel, *The Healer*, at 7 pm. Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro St. 282-8080.

Sept. 10: Classic San Francisco film *BULLITT*, starring Steve McQueen, will be screened in Dolores Park, in the "Film Night in the Park" series. 8 pm. 453-4333.

Sept. 10: Mamadou Diabate plays the kora, a 21-stringed West African harp, and Walter Strauss plays acoustic guitar, in a CONCERT featuring many musical styles. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

Sept. 11: Animal Care and Control offers a RABIES VACCINE clinic for dogs. 10 am to 1 pm. 1200 15th St. 822-5566.

Sept. 11: Susan Vogel and Elizabeth Crane, authors of *Private K-8 Schools in San Francisco* and *PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOLS of the San Francisco Bay Area*, discuss ways to increase the odds of admission. 1 pm. Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro St. 282-8080.

Sept. 11: OPERA IN THE PARK features beautiful music in Sharon Meadow of Golden Gate Park. 1:30 to 3:30 pm. The event will be rebroadcast on 102.1 KDFC, Sun., Sept. 18, at 8 pm.

Sept. 11: Terence Kissack, of the GLBT Historical Society, discusses the archival material at the PFLAG SUPPORT GROUP meeting. 2 to 4 pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St. 921-8850.

Sept. 11, 18, 25 and Oct. 2: Mission Library offers a four-part BASIC SAT WORKSHOP, especially for students scoring below 1150 on the test. 10 am to 12:30 pm. 300 Bartlett St. Call 355-2800 to register.

Sept. 12: Children ages 7 and up are invited to a SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE class for youth. 4 pm. Ballet Russe, 1944 Clement St. 333-9372 or 841-9456.



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Peace Corps Cultural Festival

Saturday, Sept. 17, 11am to 5pm

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- World beat music played by "World One Radio" DJ Cory Mason.
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CALENDAR



Sept. 13: FILMS for children 3 to 5 include *Monty, Pete's a Pizza*, and *Where the Wild Things Are*. 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 355-5707.

Sept. 13: A COMMUNITY MEETING to review the final retrofit and renovation plans for the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library will also address interim services, including the transfer of children's programs to Upper Noe Rec Center and the availability of book-mobile service at Elizabeth and Diamond streets. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 355-5707.

Sept. 14: ISABEL ALLENDE discusses her work at the USF Center for the Pacific Rim. 5:30 pm. USF Lone Mountain Campus, Room 148, 2800 Turk Blvd. 422-6828.

Sept. 14: POETS FOR PEACE features readings by D.A. Powell, John Burgess, Sam Witt, and Ilya Kaminsky. 6 to 7:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

Sept. 14: MEDEA BENJAMIN discusses her latest book, *Stop the War Now: Effective Responses to Violence and Terrorism*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

Sept. 15: Adult classes in SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE, featuring strathspeys, jigs, and reels, begin at the Noe Valley Ministry. 8 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9372 or 841-9456.

Sept. 15 to Oct. 15: Theater Rhinoceros performs GEORGE BERNARD SHAW's *The Philanderer*, with a reading of the never-performed fourth act of the play following every Friday performance. Wed. to Sat., 8 pm; Sun. 3 pm, except Sept. 18, at 7 pm. 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Sept. 16: The second annual San Francisco NATIVE JAMBOREE offers entertainment and refreshments for people who were actually born in this city. 6 to 11 pm. Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Ave. 775-4421.

Sept. 17: Mick Shaffer and the Faux Brummels perform at the Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET from 8:30 to 10:30 am, and



A hands-on exhibit exploring sun and wind energy continues this month through Oct. 22 at the Randall Museum.

Belle Monroe and the Brewglass Boys "put the 'dish' in traditional music" from 10:30 am to 1 pm. 24th Street between Sanchez and Vicksburg. 695-9299.

Sept. 17: Fairmount Elementary holds a CAR WASH and yard sale. Enter the schoolyard on Randall between Chenery and San Jose. 10 am to 3 pm. 695-5669.

Sept. 17: Beadissimo offers a CLASS to make a PMC Brick Wall Bracelet "part puzzle, part poetry." 10 am to 5 pm. 1051 Valencia St. 282-2323.

Sept. 17: The PEACE CORPS Cultural Festival features World Beat music, a global scavenger hunt, endurance games, and information from volunteers who've worked around the world. 11 am to 5 pm. Golden Gate Park, Peacock Meadow, on JFK Drive between the Conservatory of Flowers and McLaren Lodge. 977-8786.

Sept. 17: Laura Magnani discusses her book, *America's First Penitentiary: A 200-Year-Old Failure*, at a meeting hosted by the Gray Panthers. 2 to 4 pm. Friends Meeting House, 65 Ninth St. 552-8800.

Sept. 17 TO DEC. 17: The San Francisco CHILDREN'S ART CENTER offers Saturday classes, featuring a range of media, for ages 9 to 12. 9:30 to 11:30 am. Dolores Park Clubhouse. Register at 771-0292.

Sept. 20: Dorothy Leland discusses the city's past in tales from her book, *The Balloon Boy of San Francisco*, at the monthly meeting of the San Francisco HISTORY ASSOCIATION. 7 pm. Mission Dolores School Auditorium, Church and 16th. 750-9986.

Sept. 20: Ingleside Police Station holds its regular POLICE-COMMUNITY meeting starting at 7 pm. Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John Young Lane. 404-4000.

Sept. 21: Community Care Licensing offers a CHILDCARE LICENSING orientation, 9 to 11:30 am, followed by a support workshop, 12:30 pm. Children's Council, 445 Church St. 343-3333.

Sept. 23 to 25: The Academy of Sciences hosts a FREE DAY for residents of the 94110 zip code; Oct. 14 to 16 will be free for zips 94114 and 94131. 875 Howard St. 321-8000.

Sept. 24: Kerry Parker and Peter Winchell play traditional IRISH MUSIC 8:30 to 10:30 am, and Swing Theory performs '20s, '30s, and '40s music 10:30 am to 1 pm. Noe Valley Farmers' Market, 24th Street between Sanchez and Vicksburg. 695-9299.

Sept. 24: The ROADWORKS: Steamroller Prints is a block party with music, art, and activities, and a fundraiser for the Center for the Book. 10 am to 7:30 pm. Carolina between 15th and 16th. 565-0545.

Sept. 24: Learn urban cultivation at a CONTAINER GARDENING workshop at the Garden for the Environment. 10 am to noon. Seventh Avenue at Lawton. 731-5627.

Sept. 24: "SCAMS Against Seniors," including telemarketing fraud and financial abuse, will be discussed at the Older Women's League (OWL) meeting. 10 am to noon. Call 989-4422 for location.

Sept. 24: Francisco Herrera performs music for children of all ages in celebration of Latino HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH. Noon. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. Call 355-2828 for group reservations.

Sept. 24: "FILM Night in the Park" continues with a screening of *American Graffiti* in Washington Square Park, Union and Columbus. 8 pm. 453-4333.

Sept. 24 and 25: St. Philip's ANNUAL FESTIVAL features games, entertainment, arts and crafts, and homemade food to benefit St. Philip's School. 10 am to 6 pm. 725 Diamond St. 282-0141.

Sept. 24 to Oct. 1: Celebrate BANNED BOOK WEEK with Henry Miller or D.H. Lawrence—or maybe Charles Darwin?

Sept. 25: The sixth annual WORLD VEG-ETARIAN DAY features talks by Julia Butterfly Hill and members of PETA, entertainment, vendors, and free food samples. 10 am to 6 pm. Golden Gate Park, County Fair Building, Lincoln Way at Ninth Avenue. 273-5481.

Sept. 25: The FOLSOM STREET FAIR runs from 11 am to 6 pm between Seventh and 12th streets. 861-3247, www.folsomstreetfair.com.

Sept. 27: GUS LEE discusses *China Boy*, the first selection of San Francisco's "One City, One Book" program. 6:30 to 8 pm. Excelsior Branch Library, 4400 Mission St. 557-4277.

Sept. 27: The POLICE-COMMUNITY meeting at Mission Police Station begins at 6 p.m. 630 Valencia Street. 558-5400.

Sept. 27: Bay Area authors, including Jewelle Gomez and Carrie Lozano read from the letters and journals of Alice B. Toklas, Harry Hay, and Randy Shilts. 6 to 7:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

Sept. 29 to Oct. 2: The BIG BOOK SALE sponsored by the Friends of the S.F. Public Library offers 200,000 tomes on all subjects. Thurs., 10 am to 8 pm; Fri., Sat., and Sun., 10 am to 6 pm. Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center. 626-7500.

Sept. 29 to Oct. 30: San Francisco OPEN STUDIOS features a variety of artwork from diverse local creators. For information, 861-9838, www.sfpopenstudios.com.

Sept. 30: Local CULTURAL CRITIC Erik Davis discusses his book, *TechGnosis: Myth, Magic, and Mysticism in the Age of Information*. 5 pm. San Francisco Art Institute Lecture Hall, 800 Chestnut St. 749-4507.

Oct. 2: A KIDS FESTIVAL sponsored by Bethany United Methodist Church at the Castro Street Fair features face painting, outdoor sports, and a bouncy castle. 10 am to 3 pm. The garden at Noe and Market.

Oct. 8 and 9: Celebrate NINA YOKELSON's 70th birthday at a gala party at the Noe Valley Ministry on Sat., Oct. 8, from 7 to 10 pm, and at a family community celebration in Douglass Park on Sun., Oct. 9, from 1 to 5 pm. 468-7077.

OCTOBERAMA!

The next issue of the *Noe Valley Voice* will hit the streets on or before Oct. 1, 2005. The deadline for calendar items is **Sept. 15**. Please note that because of space limitations, Noe Valley events may take priority. Our address is *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you may send an e-mail to Calendar Editor Karol Barske at calendar@noevalleyvoice.com.

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Childhood Vaccinations: What's a Parent To Do?

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Tuesday, September 20, 7-9pm

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Stacia Lansman, M.D.

co-founder, Pediatric Alternatives in Mill Valley, CA, with 20+ years' experience, providing alternative and integrative pediatric care in the Bay Area.



Lindy Woodard, M.D.

co-founder, Pediatric Alternatives in Mill Valley, CA, with 20+ years' experience, providing alternative and integrative pediatric care in the Bay Area.

Description:

Vaccine-related harm provokes tremendous debate. Two potentially conflicting values operate in this controversy – first, the desire to eliminate disease, and second, the desire of parents to protect their children from damage. How do we balance the risk from disease with the risk from vaccine? Join Starfish Health Partners for an informative evening so that you can make an educated decision about this crucial issue.

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has a clinical therapy practice in San Rafael, CA. Co-author "Mother Nurture: A Mother's Guide to Health in Body, Mind, and Intimate Relationships."



Jack Ricci, D.C.

owner of Core Chiropractic and Fitness in Corte Madera, CA. He specializes in wellness/disease prevention for the entire family.

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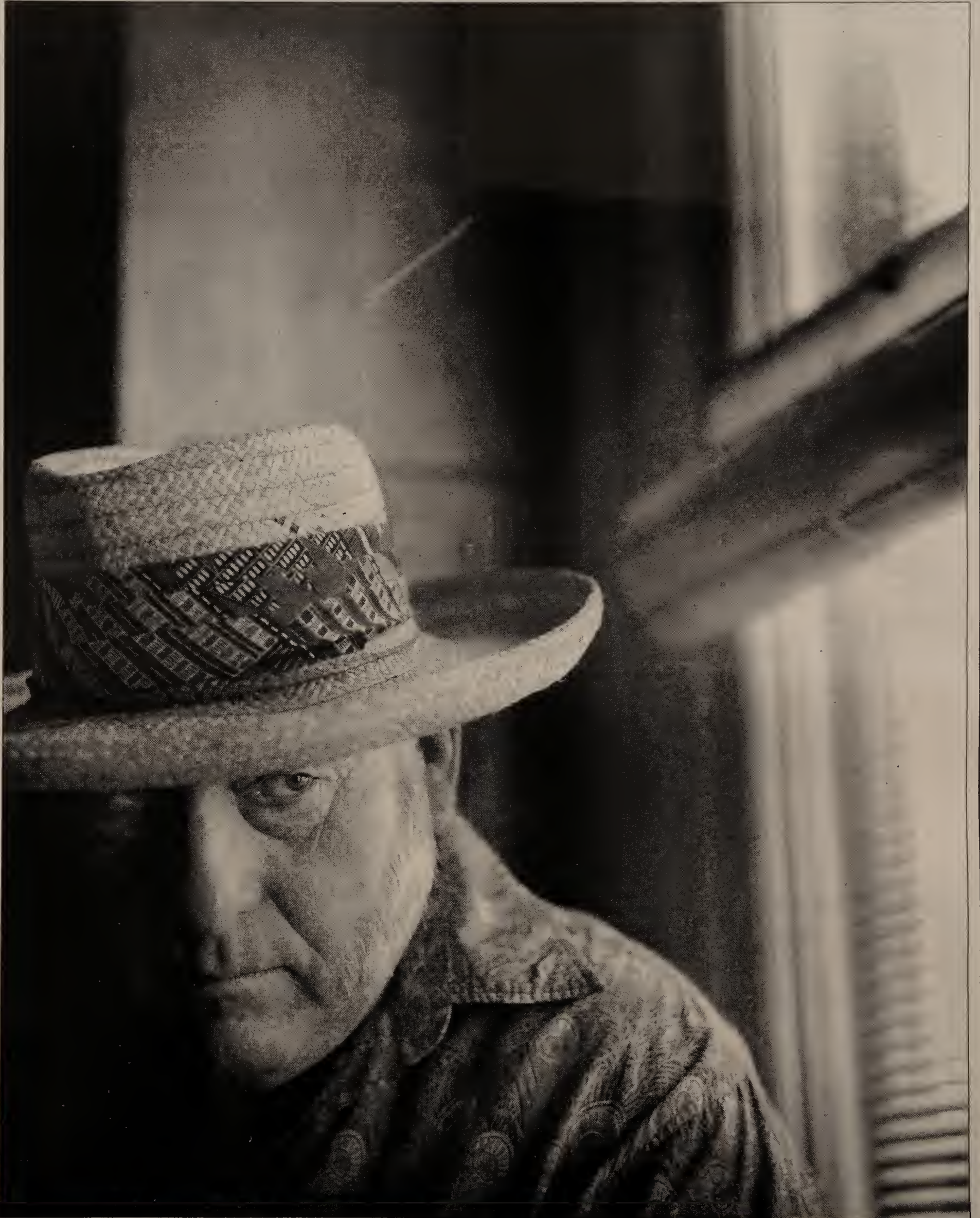
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Actor **John Cox** has been a familiar figure in the upper Church Street area since moving to Valley Street almost 20 years ago. A native of San Diego, Cox grew up in a “post-Depression” working-class family. He often echoes his father’s pithy refrain, “Money talks, and bullshit walks.”

In 1977, he took a job as a gardener for the city, working there until his retirement in 1997. In the '80s, upon the suggestion of a girlfriend, Cox began taking acting classes.

His first stage role was in David Mamet’s *Lakeboat*, produced in San Francisco by SOMAR Theater. He played the part of Ellis in the 1993 San Jose Stage Company production of *Curse of the Starving Class*. He has performed in several feature films as

well, including PBS/American Playhouse’s *Golden Gate* and the Warner Bros. movies *Basic Instinct* and *Fearless*. He also was named “Honorary Saint of the Actors Theatre” for helping build the theater on Sutter Street. He is currently rehearsing for *Trent and the Bird-o-Bot*, a hip-hop sci-fi film written by San Francisco’s Ben Lybrand.

Cox, 61, spends his free time “gambling [playing the Lottery] and solving all of the world’s problems with ‘Uncle Chuck’ [Rafidi],” owner of Sun Valley Grocery on Church Street. You also may find him walking a Maltese poodle named Louis for a friend at the One Stop Party Shop or “moseying down to the laundromat to keep an eye out for the neighborhood.”

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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SCREEN AND SCREEN AGAIN!

Movies Where Music Is the Star

By David O'Grady

Out the windows of the Noe Valley Ministry, over the heads of children dancing at our neighborhood farmers' market, from the doorways of Noe Valley Music and Streetlight Records, music is in the air.

Just walking down 24th Street on your way to rent a movie, the music you hear may steer you to the musicals or concert movie section of your video store. Given this likely hazard, here are a few films where music is the star, all available for rent from Noe Valley video stores.

Love Can Make You All Wet

Singing in the Rain, Prince's *Purple Rain*...rain, movies, and music go together. It only makes sense that umbrellas should get their due, and in the French film *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (1964), director Jacques Demy takes a novel approach: the characters sing every word of dialogue in a natural, conversational style. Demy turns this contrived challenge into a masterpiece, starring Catherine Deneuve as Geneviève, a young lover torn between Nino, a working man completing his military service in Algeria, and a rich jeweler her mother wants her to marry.

Music, story, and cinematography work in harmony in *Umbrellas*, especially in the heartbreaking scene where Geneviève and Nino must say goodbye on the train platform. As Nino's train pulls away from Geneviève, the camera pulls away from both of them, leaving us as separated and

alone as they feel. Geneviève's tearful farewell, "Je t'aime...Je t'aime..." echoes throughout this vibrant movie of music and color, despair and hope.

Rock Opera for the Surround Sound

For all the owners of scooters and motorcycles parked outside our neighborhood cafes—and for those who admire the two-wheeled life—*Quadrophenia* (1979) offers a blood-stirring story based on the Who's epic album of the same name.

Quadrophenia chronicles the frustrations of Jimmy, a young man with a chromed-out scooter, struggling to find himself amidst the hard-partying, pill-popping times of mod London in the mid-1960s. "You got to be somebody, ain't ya?" Jimmy says. "Otherwise, you might as well jump in the sea and drown."

But Jimmy's mod facade is cracking as he heads to a big weekend rally in Brighton. Led by the combative Ace Face (played by a young Sting), Jimmy and his friends turn the seaside resort into a battleground. Not even a scooter can outrun the contradictions of adult life, and in the movie's memorable finish Jimmy must confront his destiny.

Stuck in the shadow of the Who's rock-opera masterpiece *Tommy*, *Quadrophenia* deserves a look—and a listen—as the band's angry-young-man music reaches its peak of sophistication. Just hearing the line "I ride a GS scooter with my hair cut neat/Wear my wartime coat in the wind and sleet" will have you longing for the smell of two-stroke exhaust.

No Shelter for the Sixties

Some say the Summer of Love ended in the winter of 1969, when a young man brandishing a gun was killed by a Hell's Angel during a Rolling Stones performance at a free concert at Altamont Speedway. Watching the Stones documentary *Gimme Shelter* (1970), which captures the murder on film, it's hard to avoid the conclusion that those reckless, unhinged times were headed for a crash.

Using a film-within-a-film approach,

Gimme Shelter brings Mick Jagger and Charlie Watts into the editing studio to review the footage of the ill-fated Altamont concert. We see Jagger, grim and silent, watching himself as he vainly tries to placate more than 300,000 mind-altered fans.

But even without tragedy's dark edge, *Gimme Shelter* is a compelling chronicle of the Stones. As the movie traces the band's 1969 U.S. tour, it shows not only what we love about the band—a quiet, contemplative moment finds the Stones listening to tapes of their beautiful ballad "Wild Horses"—but also what we hate about them. Never has Jagger seemed more preening, self-absorbed, and out of touch. With the eternally touring Stones returning to San Francisco this November, *Gimme Shelter* is worth another look.

Glenn Gould's Mysterious Variations

The documentary *Thirty Two Short Films About Glenn Gould* (1993) opens with a lone figure—piano virtuoso Glenn Gould, here played by Colm Feore—standing on the horizon of a frozen Canadian landscape. Only the sound of the wind greets our ears, until the faint elusive notes of a piano begin to emerge. It's a perfect introduction to the mysterious genius of Gould, a man whose technically transcendent performance of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* in 1955 made him a sensation. But by age 32 (same as the number of *Variations*), Gould became a recluse, and renounced live performance for the benefits of studio recording, which provided him the anonymity he felt was crucial to making art.

Director François Girard avoids biopic clichés in this collection of meditations on the obsessive Gould, including one "variation" that poses a series of questions—some insightful, some humorously banal—for which we'll never

know the answers. Shortly before Gould's death in 1982, he re-recorded the *Goldberg Variations* in a more personal, interpretive style. It's wonderful to listen to both of Gould's versions and decide for yourself which is more sublime: Gould the public technician, or Gould the private interpreter.

Extra! Extra! A Musical for Boys

Before Christian Bale became the latest Batman, he was a street kid named Jack "Cowboy" Kelly selling newspapers in the Disney musical *Newsies* (1992). The film is a delightful story based on actual events: the 1899 newsboy strike in New York at the height of the Joseph Pulitzer-William Randolph Hearst newspaper war.

The best newsie in the business, Jack leads a ragtag bunch of orphaned boys against the biggest powers in the city. But Pulitzer, played with relish by Robert Duvall, is out to stop him by any means necessary. If the newsies are going to prevail, Jack will have to outrun his checkered past, beat Pulitzer at his own game, and put his dream of escaping the city on hold.

With its all-boy cast—the only woman is Ann-Margret as a burlesque performer—and its rough-and-tumble dance numbers, *Newsies* may be the first musical aimed squarely at boys. But the movie also offers clever lyrics for older audiences, as in this verse about what sells papers: "We need a good assassination./We need an earthquake or a war./How about a crooked politician?/Hey, stupid, that ain't news no more." Although the music and dancing give way to the story in the last third of *Newsies*, the movie will leave you humming a happy tune.

David O'Grady is a writer, communications manager, and film enthusiast who lives on Noe Street.

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STORE TREK

By Laura McHale Holland

Store Trek is a regular feature of the *Noe Valley Voice*, profiling new shops and businesses in and around Noe Valley. This month we introduce two stores that promise relaxing and beautiful things: the Urban Nest on 24th Street and Lynn Antiques on Church Street.

THE URBAN NEST 3927 24th Street between Sanchez and Noe streets 415-341-0116

From the robin's-egg-blue walls and trickling water in the fountains, to the retro tablecloths and astonishingly real-looking silk flowers, everything about the Urban Nest—Noe Valley's newest home and garden store—has been selected to soothe the urban soul.

"Life's gotten so fast-paced with computers, and we have so much stuff going on, we need to feel comforted, because nothing about all that technology is comforting. This store reminds us of a slower time," says Heather Bruchs, who opened for business in June in the block of 24th Street between Sanchez and Noe streets. Her storefront was formerly occupied by Panetti's Gifts, which closed on Memorial Day after a solid 20-year run.

In keeping with her mission, and because "a lot of people are nesting these days," Bruchs has filled the Urban Nest with charming and sentimental housewares, many with bird motifs. There are bird drawer pulls, doorstops, and door hooks, in brass and bronze. A bird bath and a large Victorian birdcage complement the shop's artful array of tea sets, linen napkins, aprons, lacy handkerchiefs, picture frames, lamps, stuffed animals, soaps, flower pots, and watering cans. Also evoking more bucolic times are French country tables and hutches made from recycled wood.

Bruchs hopes her prices will be just as soothing as the store's atmosphere. "It's easy to find beautiful things that are expensive, but hard to find beautiful things that are affordable. My prices are really affordable," she says.



Heather Bruchs invites you to visit her enchanting Urban Nest on 24th Street.

Photos by Pamela Gerard

Some items that have been "flying out the door" include cream-colored appetizer plates with French cheese-label designs (\$24 for a set of four), infant "onesies" by Bunnies by the Bay (\$14), handmade baby blankets and quilts (\$34 to \$74), sage-green enamel bowls (\$24 for a set of three), and "mouth-blown" glass vases and candlesticks (\$7 to \$36).

Also popular are the dog and cat treats (\$8 per bag) and pet food storage bins (\$39). (Birds aren't the only animals represented at the Urban Nest.)

Bruchs, who has lived on Elizabeth Street for the past eight years, has prior retail experience in Noe Valley. About a dozen years ago, she opened the now-defunct Allure clothing store on Castro Street. She sold it after a year to free up time to care for her grandmother, who has since passed away.

"I was 25 years old when I started my first business, and I didn't really have a grasp of what the neighborhood needed. I just knew what I wanted."

Now Bruchs feels she has "a sixth sense" about what would be right for Noe Valley. "People come in and they just ooh and aah over everything," she beams.

To repay their enthusiasm, she hopes to have an opening party soon. Meanwhile, the Urban Nest invites you to drop in Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

LYNN ANTIQUES AND BEAUTIFUL THINGS

1478A Church Street at 27th Street
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While she was moving furniture into Lynn Antiques and Beautiful Things during several weeks this summer, Lynn Ingham neglected to put paper over her display windows. A first-time retailer, she didn't know that most shopkeepers cover their windows until opening day. But the oversight worked in her favor.

"I opened the store at noon on Wednesday, July 10, and by 12:05 I had my first two sales. People had seen things while I was doing the windows and were rushing in because they didn't want somebody else to swoop in and buy 'their' beautiful things," she recalls.

One of the coveted items in the five-room boutique, painted in tasteful shades of green, was a crystal compote. The other was a pink glass Art Deco candelabra. "A woman bought the compote to hold potpourri.... A man bought the candelabra to put on his Buddhist altar at home, which he said it was just perfect for."

The two are now among the regular customers who come in to browse Ingham's collection of fine antiques and "beautiful things"—new and old.

About a year ago, when her management position at *Advertising Age* was moved to New York, Ingham decided to take a break from "the rat race. During the fall, I realized that I was just done with

corporate life," she says. "I wanted to do something that kept me close to home in Noe Valley and that honored the things I really love in life."

When the spot on Church Street formerly occupied by Danu Salon opened up just a couple of blocks from her home on 26th Street, she saw it as an opportunity to share her love of antiques.

She bought much of her initial inventory from a woman who was closing an antique store on the Peninsula. "She's been so generous. She shared her sources and resources, and she's become a great mentor to me," Ingham says.

Marjory Panetti has also been a mentor. "I was really feeling the loss of Panetti's [which closed at the end of May], and Marjory has helped me figure out how to find artists so I can bring their work into the shop," she says.

On her own, Ingham found Gail Sakai, who fashions handmade cards. "People come in and they want to look at them all. We spread them out, and we talk about them, and it's kind of a little experience in the shop which encourages me that I'm on the right track," Ingham says.

Sakai's cards sell for \$6. Among the other new items are bars of fine French soap (\$7), which permeate the store with the scent of lilies and roses.

But Lynn Antiques specializes in high-quality restored antique furniture, as well as vintage lamps, mirrors, framed artwork, linens, stemware, and assorted pieces of china. You can find delicate Limoges porcelain, pottery from Portugal, and "lots of Depression glass."

One-of-a-kind antiques range from a small wrought-iron, glass-topped table for \$225, to what Ingham calls "the most amazing piece in the entire shop," a nine-foot-tall Napoleon III, Louis-Phillippe-style armoire from the late 1800s, selling for \$8,000. Other notables are a mahogany pub table with four leather-covered chairs going for \$1,800 and a damask loveseat priced at \$895. Also on display are hand-tinted photographs by Dianne Poiniski priced from \$150 to \$250.

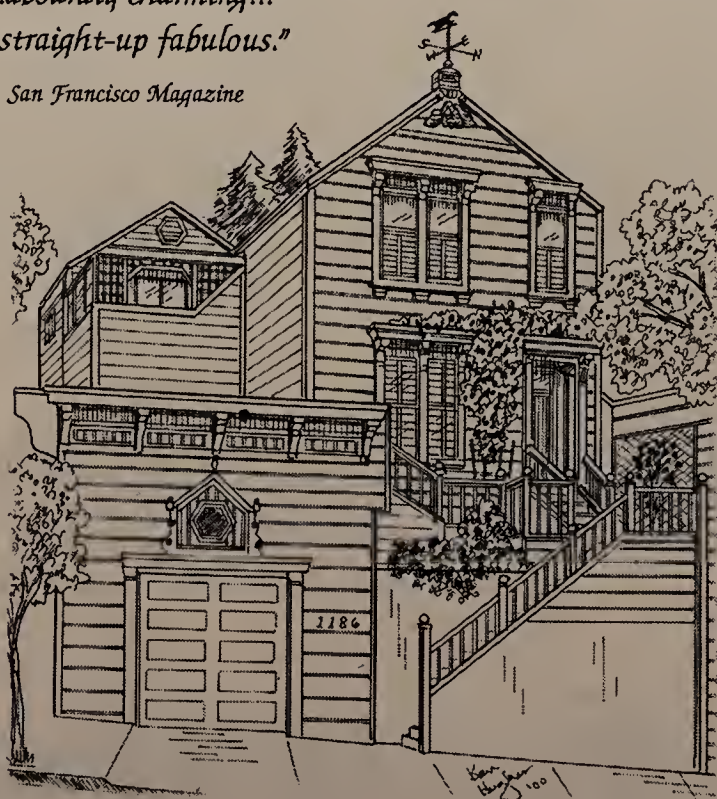
Lynn Antiques and Beautiful Things is open Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 7 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. When the shop is closed, Ingham is often scouting for great buys guided by the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Things are pretty, graceful, rich, elegant, handsome, but until they speak to the imagination, not yet beautiful."



There are five rooms of fine art, furniture, china, and glassware at Lynn Ingham's new antique shop on Church Street.

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Many Voices

Our mailbox filled up in August with the reports of your recent travel. Thank you for taking us along and showing your neighborhood pride. Keep it up, dear readers. If you didn't make it in this time, we'll do our best to include you next month. Mail your photo prints to the *Noe Valley Voice*, Attention: Readers, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you can e-mail photos to jack@noevalleyvoice.com.

Peggy Kivel (front row, left) and her niece **Sarah Howard** (next to Peggy) went to the small town of Vicos, Peru, to live with the Andean family of **Andres Gutierrez** (front row, third from left) as part of a joint project of community-based tourism with The Mountain Institute in June. Standing, fourth from left, is **Henry Penland**, a Peace Corps volunteer who served as translator. Others pictured are Peruvians serving on the local council that runs the project in association with TMI.



Leyla and Kian Farzaneh display their copy of the *Voice* while resting in the ruins of Persepolis in Iran. Dad **Farhad Farzaneh** had brought the family to visit his parents in the Shiraz, about 40 miles from this site. Photo by mom Mary Whitney



Amanda Minafo of Glen Park accompanied her parents **Joe and Annette Minafo** on their first pilgrimage to Abbey Road in London this July.



Sidney Hollar (of Noe Valley) and **Larry Dean** (of Bernal Heights) celebrated the 4th of July on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls. The random person they asked to take this photo knew how to pronounce Noe Valley because his brother had just moved from our own 25th Street.



David Oppenheimer (left) and Noe Valley resident **David Olmeijer** had their copy of the *Voice* handy as they stood in front of the Whalebone Arch in the Inupiat Eskimo community of Barrow, Alaska.



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FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Illustrated Reminiscences by Florence Holub

Starting School, 1926

In this short essay, reprinted from the October 1988 edition of the Noe Valley Voice, Florence Holub remembers her first days at Edison Primary School.

I recently encountered a photograph of Edison School, once located at 22nd and Church streets. The photo brought back fragments of my almost forgotten childhood, and my first few days of school.

In 1926, my family had just moved into the lower flat of a building on Chattanooga Street (which still stands today), next to the piles of broken brick and concrete that were created to make way for the new Edison Primary. I remember the groaning sound of the 11-line streetcar as it turned the corner at 22nd Street, and the rapid clanging sound it made as it picked up speed in front of our house and headed for 24th.

We had recently moved from the flat, quiet, sparsely populated plains of northern Idaho to San Francisco—an exciting place, so richly peopled, so magical in comparison to our rural farm. Soon after we arrived, my father took us for a thrilling fast ride in our Model T Ford, up and over the Dolores Street hills. With each high, we three children in the back seat would fly up to the roof of the car and down again, squealing with the same joy we would later experience on the “Chutes at the Beach” ride at Playland.

There were so many things for unworldly 6-year-olds to remember: “Look up and down the street before you cross,” “Don’t take candy from strangers” (even then), and especially “Come straight home.”

But the walk to and

from school was full of distractions! Strange and beautiful flowers bloomed



everywhere—lush red geraniums that could only be grown in pots in wintry Idaho, a shrub with leaves that smelled like lemon when you crushed them, and a large bush of white, heavily-scented, bugle-like flowers that can still be seen around Noe Valley.

I remember the long walk from Chattanooga Street up the steep 22nd Street sidewalk steps that led to the sunny, expansive schoolyard and the lower-level first-grade room filled with unfamiliar, wide-eyed, frightened 6-year-olds like myself. Although I have forgotten her name, I shall never forget my teacher’s warm and friendly manner, her encouragement to all of us. She taught the class to stand up, put our hands over our hearts, and solemnly repeat after her: “I pledge Elly Janz....” I thought my teacher knew just about everything. She even knew my friend Elly Janz, back on a farm in Idaho.

Many years later, my son, who is now grown and married, attended the new Edison School on Chattanooga Street, where we, as parents, were able to observe and be grateful for those gentle and caring souls who decide to become primary school teachers.



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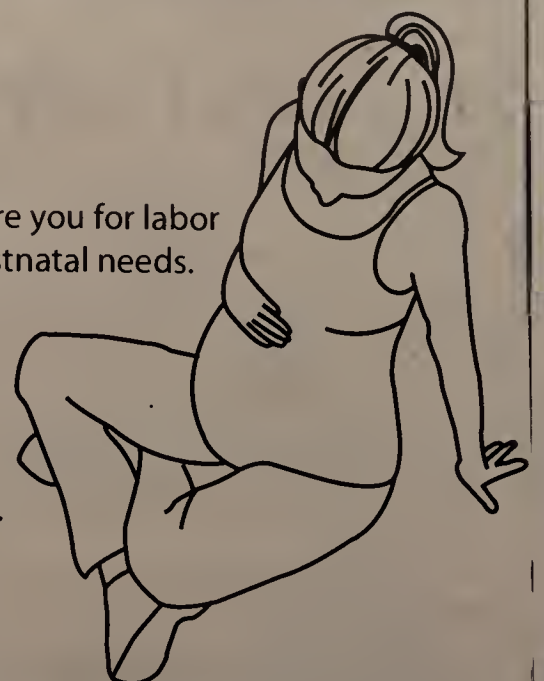
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Sweet Street Scooters. Four-year-old Jade and her 6-year-old brother Daniel Christey pause for this instant portrait on Jersey and Church streets. Photo by Pamela Gerard

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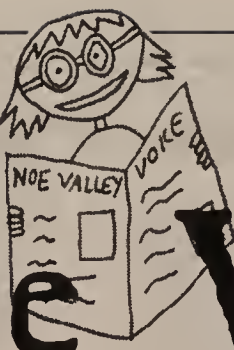


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Written and Illustrated by Laura McCloskey

WILD MAMMALS IN NOE VALLEY



Have you ever seen a wild mammal in Noe Valley? If so, you are not alone.

Wild mammals live among us in many unexpected places.

The wild mammals that live in Noe Valley include skunks, raccoons, opossums, squirrels, gophers, moles, rats, mice, and even bats. Most of these mammals are nocturnal, which means they are awake at night while we are sleeping. But don't bother looking under your bed covers. These mammals avoid people and dogs or other animals that might disturb or kill them.

Because they like to be left alone, mammals often live in hard-to-reach places. Some live in trees, some burrow underground, and some seek cover in the bushes. Many mammals use the city's sewers to travel from one place to another.

Long ago, before Noe Valley had paved streets and houses covering its land, there were other mammals that lived here. The white deer might have grazed on sweet grasses. The gray fox would have set up its den in the surrounding hills. Coyotes would



Coyotes used to live in Noe Valley.

have roamed the brush looking for small prey, and a mountain lion might have been on the hunt for a deer. You also might have seen a golden bear munching on a fish from a local stream.

The mammals that still live in Noe Valley have adapted to the changes caused by the growth of the city. Some eat food and trash left over by people. Some live in garages, on rooftops, and in gardens and city parks.

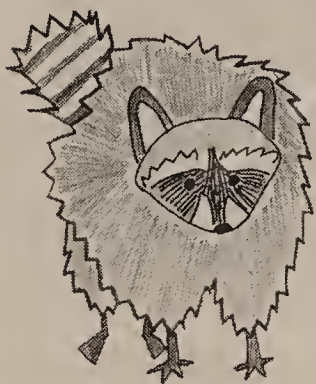
Mammal vs. Animal—Is There a Difference?

A mammal is a special kind of animal. What makes mammals different from other animals is that they produce milk to feed their babies in the beginning stages of life. Other animals, like birds or fish, don't make milk for their babies.



This is what the footprint of an opossum looks like.

Raccoons * Opossums * Skunks * Squirrels * Bats * Gophers * Mice



Mammal Name: Raccoon

City Habitat: Raccoons live in trees, but in the city they can be found nesting in attics or under houses. Raccoons are easy to spot because they look like they are wearing a black mask.

Food: Rodents, insects, grubs (beetle larvae), fruit, nuts, human food

Babies: Raccoons have babies in safe spaces on the ground, such as a hollow log, or in and around old buildings. At three months old, the babies can climb into trees with their parents.

Mammal Name: Opossum

City Habitat: Opossums live in underground dens where they can make a bed with twigs and leaves. They have pointy noses and are smaller than raccoons.

Food: Fallen fruit, insects, bird eggs, carrion (dead animals)

Babies: Opossums are marsupials, which means they carry their babies in a pouch on their stomach. The babies, when first born, are the size of a honeybee.



Mammal Name: Skunk

City Habitat: Skunks live on the ground—in blackberry bushes, hollow logs, or rock piles—or under buildings. They roam from place to place, so they sleep wherever they end up in daylight.



Food: Mice, grubs, insects, snails, fruit

Babies: Skunk babies stay with their mothers for three months. Mothers nest their young in their burrows or in the abandoned dens of other animals. Skunks are black with big white stripes.



Mammal Name: Squirrel

City Habitat: Squirrels, which are brown and bushy-tailed, live in trees. They often build their nests

between two strong branches.

Food: Nuts, seeds, grains, fruit

Babies: Squirrels give birth to their babies, usually four at a time, in the nest. The mother squirrel nurses the babies until they are ready to be on their own, about 10 weeks.

Mammal Name: Bat

City Habitat: Bats live in trees, caves, and old buildings. Bats are migratory—they move when they need to find warmer weather.

Food: Insects

such as mosquitoes. Bats feed at dusk.

Babies: Bats have one or two babies in early summer. The babies cling to their mother's stomach and drink milk. Bats can fly, and they live from 10 to 30 years.



Mammal Name: Moles and Gophers

City Habitat: Moles and gophers live in underground tunnels—in gardens, on hillsides, and in city parks.

Food: Insects, grubs, earthworms. Gophers also eat shoots and roots.

Babies: Moles and gophers have their babies in their burrows. They have three to six in a litter.



Mammal Name: Rats and Mice

City Habitat: Mice and rats are very adaptable and can live almost anywhere. They can squeeze through any opening they can fit their heads through.

Food: Seeds, grass, human food

Babies: They make nests for their babies out of leaves, paper, and rags.

HOW TO HELP WILD MAMMALS IN NOE VALLEY

Here are some ways you can help a mammal that is in trouble:

1. If you see a mammal that is injured or in distress, do not touch it or go near it.
2. Watch the mammal from a distance.
3. Call Animal Care and Control at 415-554-6364. If you feel it is an emergency, call 415-554-9400.
4. An Animal Care and Control officer will come and help the injured animal by taking the animal to a wildlife shelter.
5. The San Francisco Rescued Orphaned Mammal Program (SFROMP), located in the Richmond District, has a wildlife hospital where volunteers take care of wild animals and set them free when well. You can contact the group's wildlife hotline at 415-350-WILD. Or go to the web site at www.sfromp.org.
6. Grow plants in your garden that benefit wildlife. You can plant vines and shrubs for mammal nests, plants that produce fruit, or plants that attract insects such as buckwheat.

Have You Seen a Wild Animal in Noe Valley?

We surveyed some Noe Valley kids about what wild animals they'd come across in Noe Valley. Here are their descriptions of the animals they had seen.



Casey Blue (right) and his friend Daniel, both 5, have seen a hawk at Douglass Park. Says Casey: "It looked like an owl. It was yellow and gray. It sat on a really skinny branch, and we saw it poop!"



and it was black."

Maya Lackey, 3, saw the hawk in Douglass Park, too. "It was on a rock and in a tree. It was big



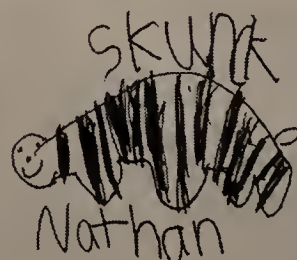
Nathan Varnhagen, 8, said, "I haven't seen a skunk because they are sneaky, but I know what they look like. I saw them on TV." See Nathan's drawing of a skunk below.



Ethan Grossbach, 5, said, "I've seen a raccoon. It was black and white. It ran up a tree super-duper fast. I've seen an owl, too, flying from tree to tree. There were two of them and they were brown."



Quinn Akin, 4, said, "I've seen pigeons and bluebirds. The bluebirds are blue, and I saw them eating Cheerios."



Special Thanks to Jaime Rey of the city's Rescued Orphaned Mammal Program. ROMP is funded by donations only. To make a donation, go to <http://www.sfromp.org>. Also, thank you to Suzanna Buehl with the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department's Natural Areas Program, and to Damien Raffa with the Presidio Trust.

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SCHOOL REPORT

This month's School Report features a profile of the new principal at James Lick Middle School, as well as a review of the summer happenings at Fairmount Elementary. After school starts, we'll check in with Alvarado Elementary School.

JAMES LICK

New Principal Well Prepared for Challenges

When the doors swung open at James Lick Middle School on Aug. 29, the students were wearing their traditional black and white uniforms and the Art Deco building was still painted creamy white and green. But there were a lot of new faces inside, including a new principal and assistant principal, who spent most of the summer meeting with parents, staff, and community members, listening to their ideas and preparing for the new school year.

Days before the opening of the fall semester, incoming principal Carmelo Sgarlato leaned back comfortably in his chair as he discussed the journey that had brought him to James Lick. Dark eyes that are at once warm and piercing revealed the focus and caring of the man who returned to college to study psychology, fell in love with science, and seized an opportunity to share this passion with disadvantaged learners.

Describing himself as "an ex-New Yorker, educated in the New York parochial schools," Sgarlato arrived in California in 1974. Two years later, he found his way to San Francisco, where he earned a degree in biology from San Francisco State University. When a friend told him of the acute need for science teachers in the city's public schools, he sought a job with the San Francisco Unified School District.

As a beginning science teacher at Washington High in 1984, Sgarlato made a point of wearing a tie to work every day,

"so people would know I was serious." When the district came under pressure to desegregate its schools, he was eager to transfer to Phil and Sala Burton Academic High School, the city's first consent-decree high school. He saw it as a chance to help historically disadvantaged and academically challenged students.

Following 10 years in the classroom, which included stints as a chemistry teacher and science department head, he moved to the district office, where he advanced from science resource teacher to curriculum supervisor for all science, math, and technology programs for grades K to 12. But after 10 years away from the classroom, he felt the need to be in contact with students again.

Although he considered other positions, Sgarlato found the vacancy at James Lick "intriguing." As a former Valley Street resident with firsthand knowledge of the Noe Valley community, he was mystified that the school was not performing better academically. Sgarlato seized the opportunity to help the school fully realize its potential, placing his number-one focus on the goal of raising student achievement.

Working alongside Bita Nazarian, the school's new assistant principal, Sgarlato has spent the summer applying their shared backgrounds to fine-tuning the school's academic support programs for less-proficient students; strengthening instruction in language and math skills; and expanding the school's schedule of electives with a new music program, a full sports program, and a program for students to learn real-life skills as assistants to teachers and staff.

Petite, outgoing, and fluent in Spanish, Nazarian shares Sgarlato's enthusiasm for working with the James Lick community and kids. She says she's felt inspired by the energy that parents bring to "the sometimes daunting task of educating our children." Formerly the instructional reform facilitator at Everett Middle School, Nazarian brings experience directing professional development programs for teachers and coordinating the school's intervention and enrichment programs for students. Working very comfortably together, the two new administrators also plan to create a more positive school climate.

As a scientist, Sgarlato understands that the earth's resources are limited, and tries to live without using more than is needed. As the parent of children ages 20, 12, and 2, he notices when students make poor food choices or need dental work, and looks for solutions. At the end of a very full day, he drives back home to Marin County, where his wife is at home caring for their 2-year-old. He'll wash the dinner dishes, "because my wife has been working all day, too."

Keeping in Touch: Please call 695-5675, or the James Lick message number, 436-0349, for information, or drop by the school at 1220 Noe Street at Clipper.



New James Lick principal Carmelo Sgarlato (left) and assistant principal Bita Nazarian hope to fine-tune the academic programs and create a positive environment for their students.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

PTSA Meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month during the school year from 6 to 8 p.m. The web site for the parent/teacher group is www.JamesLickPTSA.org. Thank you for sharing your ideas, talents, enthusiasm, and support for our public schools.

—Sue Cattoche

FAIRMOUNT

Parents Stay Busy Over Summer

When the Fairmount students and staff step into the school's cafeteria/multipurpose room, they will notice a shiny new blue tile floor.

Following up on last summer's school renovation project, which stripped out funky old carpeting and replaced it with new tile in all the classrooms, Fairmount's intrepid parent renovators turned their sights on upgrading the cafeteria.

Over the course of two weekends, parents rolled up their sleeves, got down on their knees, and retiled the cafeteria. The new colorful multipurpose room serves various functions and is scheduled to receive upgrades during the school year utilizing proceeds from the *Lion King* benefit held last year. One new addition will be a portable stage, says Fairmount principal Karling Aguilera-Fort.

Test Scores Shoot Up

Aguilera-Fort received some good news upon returning from summer vacation: Fairmount students made significant gains in language arts last year. They also held steady in mathematics. All through the year, the school's staff focused on en-

hancing classroom instruction.

"Although it was difficult going through the process of restructuring and redesigning the instructional program, it paid off in the end," notes Aguilera-Fort. "Teachers and staff worked really hard with the support of the school community to make it a fruitful process."

In addition to continuing to improve language arts and math instruction for 2005-06, Fairmount will seek to integrate more arts and technology into the curriculum, Aguilera-Fort says. "We're looking forward to an exciting future based on the results of last year. The horizon looks promising."

Fairmount Parent Named Mayor's Education Adviser

Hydra Mendoza, a parent of two Fairmount students, was appointed this summer by Mayor Gavin Newsom to be his education adviser. Mendoza, former executive director of Parents for Public Schools, says she is looking forward to solidifying the links between the city and the school district. Superintendent Arlene Ackerman told the mayor at Mendoza's appointment ceremony that he "had picked the right person, one who would give 400 percent effort."

School Visits Start in September

Contact Fairmount at 695-5669 to attend one of the scheduled school tours conducted by parent volunteers.

The annual car wash and schoolwide yard sale will be held on Saturday, Sept. 17. Enter the schoolyard on Randall between Chenery and San Jose.

—Tom Ruiz

SCHOOL CONTACTS

James Lick Middle School
1220 Noe Street at 25th Street
415-695-5675
Janice Daniels, Principal

Alvarado Elementary School
625 Douglass Street at Alvarado
415-695-5695
David Weiner, Principal

Fairmount Elementary School
65 Chenery Street at Randall
415-695-5669
Karling Aguilera-Fort, Principal

Public or Private School—You Decide

The San Francisco chapter of Parents for Public Schools (PPS) will sponsor a free back-to-school session at James Lick Middle School on Saturday, Sept. 10, from 9 a.m. until noon.

Parents can get information on choosing a public school, improving parent involvement, leveraging resources and fundraising, and building such things as an English Language Advisory Council at their children's school.

Participants will also get to meet the new PPS executive director, Lorraine Woodruff-Long. Call 468-7077 or e-mail info@ppssf.org to register for child-care during the session. To find out more about Parents for Public Schools, visit the web site at www.ppssf.org. James Lick is located at 1220 Noe Street.

The following day, Sunday, Sept. 11, at 1 p.m., Cover to Cover bookstore will host a book-signing and discussion of *Finding a School for Your Child* by Susan Vogel. Now in its fifth edition, *Finding a School* is a guide to the private school admission process and to more than 80 private and parochial schools in San Francisco and Marin counties. For more details, call Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro Street, at 282-8080.

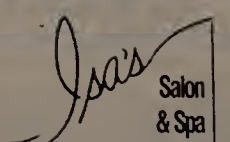
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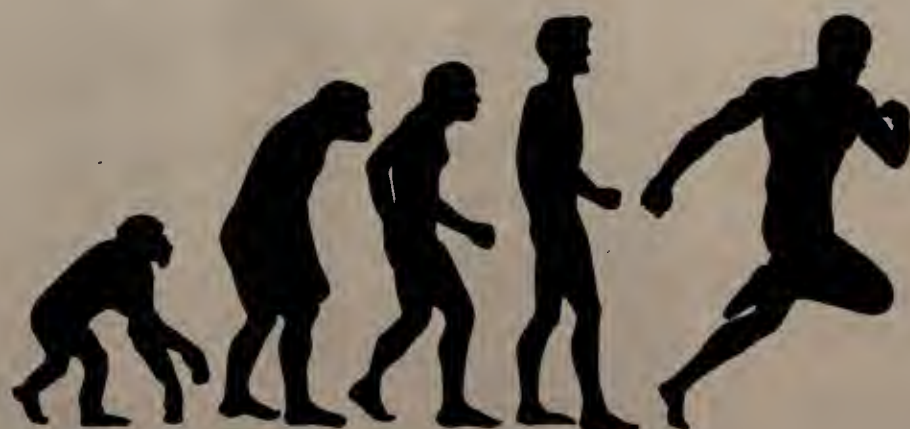
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This month's book list, chosen by Noe Valley librarian Carol Small and *Voice* bookworm Karol Barske, features a Booker Prize winner, a history of the San Francisco Mime Troupe, and a children's story whose canine hero transforms himself into Superdog. To find out which books are available at our branch, go to www.sfpl.org, call 355-5707, or visit the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street near Castro Street. Besides books, the library offers magazines, newspapers, DVDs, music CDs, Internet access, and the archives and index to the *Noe Valley Voice*. Branch hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Adult Fiction

◆ In *If You Are Afraid of Heights*, Raj Kamal Jha tells three tales of the changing landscape of urban India. The style often moves between fantasy and reality.

◆ An 11-year-old Catholic school student develops a Messiah complex when he plays the lead role in a passion play gone awry in *The Beginning of Calamity* by Tom House.

◆ A Krakow woman who narrowly survived World War II hides a horrible secret in *Anja the Liar* by Thomas Moran.

◆ Alan Hollinghurst's Booker Prize-winning novel, *The Line of Beauty*, is set in the world of London politics during the boom years of the 1980s.

Adult Nonfiction

◆ John Leland analyzes *Hip: The History*, from Walt Whitman to the Beats to contemporary hip-hop style and music.

◆ *The San Francisco Mime Troupe Reader*, edited by Susan Vaneta Mason, tells the stories behind the group's major and minor productions over the past 40 years.

◆ Maureen Dowd's *Bushworld* examines the "Oedipal loop-de-loop" between American presidents number 41 and 43, and the Orwellian logic used by their dynasty.

◆ In *How the Homosexuals Saved Civilization*, Cathy Crimmins points out how an "immigrant" group has influenced mainstream American society's aesthetics.

Children's Fiction

◆ Whenever you have a free moment, you can share a story with listeners of all ages from Margaret Read MacDonald's *Three-Minute Tales: Stories from Around the World to Tell or Read When Time Is Short*.

◆ Beatrice hates being taken to the library by her brother Henry, and she's extremely bored waiting for him—until the right book catches her interest at the story hour in *Beatrice Doesn't Want To*, written by Laura Numeroff and illustrated by Lynn Munsinger. *Ages 3 to 5*.

◆ When free-spirit Albert comes into his life, over-organized Wallace's own life changes in unexpected, enjoyable ways in *Wallace's Lists* by Barbara Botter, with illustrations by Olof Landsröm. *Ages 3 to 6*.

◆ After being teased and taunted by the neighborhood bully Clevis, Dex transforms himself into a brawny (but still kindhearted) hero in *Superdog: The Heart of a Hero*, written by Caralyn Buehner and illustrated by Mark Buehner. *Ages 4 to 6*.

◆ A farm boy named Jack and a fisherman from Shetland are two of the people whose lives are affected by beings they can barely see in *The Hidden Folk: Stories of Fairies, Dwarves, Selkies, and Other Sacred Beings* by Lise Lunge-Larsen, illustrated by Beth Krommes. *Ages 6 to 9*.

◆ Writer Mary Lyn Ray and illustrator Peter Sylvada created *Welcome, Brown Bird*, about two boys connected across continents through their concern for a songbird with a threatened habitat. *Ages 7 and up*.

Children's Nonfiction

◆ "Bright flits, brisk zips, a green-gray blur, wings, zings, and whirr" appear in Kristine O'Connell George's *Hummingbird Nest: A Journal of Poems*, illustrated by Barry Moser. *Ages 6 and up*.

◆ In *The Salem Witch Trials: An Unsolved Mystery from History*, by Jane Yolen with art by Roger Roth, readers can be detectives analyzing clues in the text. *Ages 9 and up*.

LIBRARY EVENTS

Library Renovation Meeting

◆ The community is invited to view the finalized plans for the *renovation* of the Noe Valley Library, including the color scheme and furniture choices; also, interim services for when the branch closes will be explained on Tuesday, Sept. 13, at 7 p.m.

Preschool Merriment

◆ "Fun, Friendly *Music* and Movement with Catherine" is a program for infants and kids up to 4 years old, on Thursday, Sept. 8, at 10 and 11 a.m.

Preschool Story Time and Films

◆ Children ages 2 to 5 are invited to attend a *preschool story time* at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Sept. 6 and 27. *Films*, including *Monty, Pete's a Pizza*, and *Where the Wild Things Are* will be screened at 10 and 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 13.



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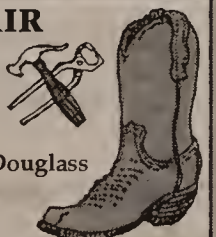
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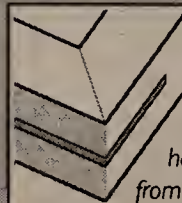
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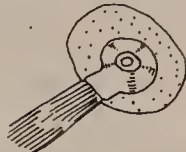
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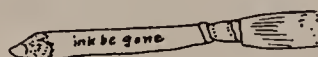
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Then mail your ad copy and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15th of the month before** the month in which you'd like to advertise. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. (Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or e-mail at this time.)

10 for 10 discount: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Voice* will be the October 2005 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before Oct. 1. **The deadline for Class Ads is Sept. 15.** The Class Ads will be printed in the paper and then displayed for one month on our web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. Thank you for your support.

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Noe Valley Has Balls

By Mazook

AN OUNCE OF BOUNCE; Sanchez Hill residents have become accustomed to X-treme skateboarders careening down Sanchez Street from Hill to 23rd Street. Often they're rolling in the X-tremely wee hours of the morning. Over the years, residents also have become accustomed to seeing Sanchez Hill pictured in movies and TV or print advertising shots.

The hill became a location for an extreme television commercial at July's end when a local film crew was hired to film a national television commercial for Sony. The concept was to release 140,000 little soft rubber bouncy balls that would cascade down the steep incline from Hill Street, across 22nd Street, and into a 20-foot-high net that was draped across Sanchez just above Alvarado Street.

"We were attracted to the site because of the view into the valley below. Director Nicolai Fuglsig particularly liked the row of houses just below the crest on the east side of Sanchez at the top of the Hill Street intersection," says MJZ Productions location manager Michael Raziano, who lives in Mill Valley. (Mill Valley is sort of like Noe Valley's sister city in Marin County.)

"The Sanchez Hill was our last location and we came in a day late because of weather delays at our two previous shoots, on Filbert between Hyde and Leavenworth [the steepest hill in San Francisco], and in North Beach looking down Kearny above Broadway. We are sorry to have inconvenienced the neighbors with our no-parking zones, and thank them for their patience," apologizes Raziano, also speaking for co-location manager Patrick Ranahan.

Speaking on behalf of the neighbors, yours truly included, and for all the kids who showed up to see the ball-bouncing spectacle and

walked away with a bounty of balls: No problemo, Mike and Pat.

MJZ Productions brought in kids from Edison Charter Academy and other local teens to assist when the slew of multicolored missiles were let loose from a crane at the top of the hill or shot out of cannons at various lower locations. Not surprisingly, some of the bouncing critters made it as far down as Jersey Street, and kids were discovering them in every nook and cranny of Sanchez Hill for days after the event.

☎ ☎ ☎

VOTED MOST POPULAR BLOCK: To the surprise of Raziano and Ranahan, the very same row of houses on Sanchez was also being featured in a national TV ad for Cingular—the so-called "Raising the Bar" ad.

"Another crew was out here last fall filming the Cingular ad," says Tom Duggan, a resident of 861 Sanchez for 36 years. "Actually, over the past several years, we have seen dozens of photo shoots for advertisements which show modeling shots of clothing or cars on and over the hill," reports Duggan. "In the early '80s, they did a *Streets of San Francisco* episode with a lot of scenes of the hill and this row of houses. They used the inside of my house as part of filming some scenes, which was a lot of fun."

The city hasn't shown as much appreciation, however. "We are like the forgotten block," Duggan says. "Several years ago when the city repaved Sanchez Street, they came all the way up the hill but for some reason stopped at 22nd Street. What really gets me, though, is that PG&E is currently putting the whole hill's wiring underground but has left out the second half of the 800 block of Sanchez." (Street numbers 800 to 849 are on top between 21st and Hill, and addresses 850 to 899 go from Hill down to 22nd.)

Duggan, who is 60 and who grew up in a house a block down the hill at 938 Sanchez, says the completed underground wiring "would provide the first unobstructed view of Noe Valley from Hill Street in my lifetime."

He and his neighbors are meeting with Bevan Dufty on Sept. 7 to ask the supe's help in lighting a fire under PG&E.

Liberate the 800 block of Sanchez! I say.

☎ ☎ ☎

HOLD YOUR HORSES: Noe Valley filmmaker John Corey is "in progress" on a fea-

ture-length documentary about our resident icon, 85-year-old Harry Aleo. Proprietor of Twin Peaks Properties, lifetime board member of the Noe Valley Merchants Association, avowed conservative Republican in this valley where there are few, Aleo is also owner of the horseracing world's current rage: *Lost in the Fog*. The 3-year-old colt has won all eight of his starts, many in record-breaking fashion.

Corey, who is an Emmy Award-winning producer for TV Channel 5's *Evening Magazine*, says he is trying to finish the documentary in time for the film festivals next spring, but "every month the story becomes more interesting and the plot thickens.... I'm on my way to Saratoga racecourse in upstate New York for the Grade 1 King's Bishop Stakes [on Aug. 27]. I'll have to go to the Belmont race-track in late October for the Grade 1 Breeders Cup races, with the big purses. These fall races could be very interesting, so hopefully the film will be done by the end of this year."

Aleo's thoroughbred has quite a following, he says. "In the beginning of August, I was up at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds, where *Lost in the Fog* was making an appearance—not to race, but for a workout only. He was being ridden between the races by jockey Russell Baze, and people told me that the crowd was almost double what it normally would have been—and this was for a workout!"

But the plot is thickening. Whilst Corey was filming in Sonoma, there was another horse owned by Aleo named Frisco Star (renamed from *Monster on the Loose*), making his first career start in a 5-1/2-furlong race. "It was kinda incredible," Corey says, "because Frisco Star set a track record of just over one minute and one second, and he finished more than eight lengths ahead of the second-place horse."

Perhaps someday we'll see *Lost in the Fog* matched against Frisco Star. Stay tuned.

☎ ☎ ☎

CANADIAN HAM: The publishers of the *Voice* have confirmed that a film company located in Vancouver, B.C., is producing a detective television series for Fox TV to be called "The Gate." It's set in San Francisco but filmed entirely way up there in Vancouver with actors from way down there in Hollywood. But, in search of local color, Feight Productions Ltd. has contacted the *Noe Valley Voice* to use our logo and newsrack design, along with that of other local rags.

The film company wants to reconstruct city

newspaper boxes and use them as props in the street scenes, which presumably are set in Downtown Noe Valley.

According to set decorator Karen Brooks, "The thing that is striking about the streets in San Francisco is the rows of racks that hold all the different newspapers, so the street scenes will show these rows with as many local papers as we can assemble." While the filming will be in Canada, Brooks anticipates that there will be a crew down here briefly to film cutaway shots of various parts of the city. Sanchez Street hill just might warrant a visit.

☎ ☎ ☎

CHANGING, REARRANGING: Big news in Downtown Noe Valley is the Sept. 1 closing of Graystone Wine & Liquor. One of our oldest spirit shops, Graystone opened in 1937, on the northwest corner of 24th and Castro. That was the year the site's original occupant, Bank of America, moved across to the northeast corner of the intersection.

Graystone's most recent owners, Hugh Stone and manager Gary Speer, decided to close the doors after 27 years in the business because "the lease ran out and the landlord wants a lot of money, and it was time for us to retire," says Speer. "Once we lock the door on the last day, we aren't looking back. But we will have fond memories of all our regular customers." (At press time, a rumor was floating through the vale that Guys and Dolls vintage clothing shop would fill Graystone's vacated spot.)

There will be a farewell party on Sept. 4, 6 to 9 p.m., at the Peaks bar on Castro Street. Friends and customers will celebrate Graystone's "10,000 days" of operation in Noe Valley.

One casualty of the closing is the Muni Fast Pass. The discount ticket once sold at Graystone is not sold anywhere else in the neighborhood. Will another shop please come forward?

In other news, Jeweler Rudy Paul has retired and closed his shop in the Noe Valley Mall, after more than 20 years at that location.

Vivon Chan is relocating Vivon's, her women's clothing store on Castro near 24th, as of Sept. 1. "I am moving to Hayes Valley, because the next-door real estate office is going to be expanding into this space."

The doors were locked for the last time on

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

or about Aug. 1 at Rose Nails next to Martha's Coffee on 24th Street. There were no good-byes posted on the window, which is now covered with plain brown paper.

Indigo V is now closed to retail traffic, and owner Diane Barrett is focusing strictly on flower-arranging. Primarily she's working with her corporate clients, but she will accept phone orders.

Sterling Bank was to open by July, on the corner of 24th and Church, but it's still closed, due to bureaucratic problems. According to bank president Steve Adams, City Hall somehow "lost" Sterling's permit applications to put windows in the side of the building. Adams says the permits have finally been issued, and the bank will be opening early this fall.

Venerable Video Wave on Castro has been taken over by two Noe Valleons, Gwen Anderson and Colin Hutton. After many illustrious years, previous owners Alexander and Gardenia Gardener gave up the store because they were facing too arduous a commute from their home in Grass Valley.

The Diamond Corner Café has a new owner, Noe Valley resident Bruce Ponte, and a new name, fittingly Café Ponte. It also will have a new menu. "I am expanding the dinner menu, expanding the hours, and creating a kids menu," says Ponte, adding, "I'm also applying for a beer and wine license, as well as a wine-making license, so I can serve my own label." That's ambitious.

At the beginning of July, Dr. John Pierce moved his offices from the Noe Valley Practice Clinic on the corner of 24th Street and Dolores down to 2480 Mission at 21st Street, where he plans to expand his practice. In his Noe Valley place is neurologist Dr. Garry Belaga, who, like Pierce, is affiliated with the Sutter Health Group and Ralph K. Davies and St. Luke's Hospital.

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TAG BALL: Word from anti-graffiti enforcement officer Andrew Putz is that the infamous graffiti vandal ROC failed to appear at his last court date. He has been out on bail

after finally being nabbed last spring, and now a warrant has been issued for his arrest.

Meanwhile, N.V. Merchants Association president Carol Yenne is alerting members to look out for two new vandals, with the monikers "KERBS" and "ZERBAC." There have been over 40 sightings of graffiti by those two, and Yenne hopes they can be identified and arrested with the help of watchful neighbors.

It might interest you to know the association has a volunteer who goes around painting out the obnoxious tags wherever they appear.

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SAVED FROM THE WRECKING BALL: The watchful eyes of neighbors around the 840-square-foot cottage at 39 Chattanooga Street have prevented a new owner from turning it into two units totaling 3,994 square feet. The Planning Department originally approved the alterations, but the Board of Supes overturned that decision at an Aug. 9 hearing. The supervisors voted unanimously to preserve the house after more than 40 people showed up, at the urging of an ad hoc group called "Save 39 Chattanooga."

According to Upper Noe Neighbors President Vicki Rosen, who was urging members to support the preservation, 39 Chattanooga may be one of the oldest houses in Noe Valley.

One of the newest structures in Noe Valley, the condo/commercial building across from Bell Market, is just about ready to start leasing. According to one of the owners, Brian Maloney, there's been a lot of interest in both the residential and commercial units, but they're still awaiting the final condo permits before anything is actually sold.

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STRESS TEST: There was a well-attended book-signing party at Cover to Cover on Aug. 12 to celebrate the release of *Say Yes to College: A Practical and Inspirational Guide to Raising College-Bound Students* by Noe Valley writer Elizabeth Crane and co-author Sharon Chandler.

"This is my first major book," Crane noted. "I became interested in the subject because of my two boys, and my co-author has years of experience in teaching parents how to prepare their kids for college." Crane is also the manager of the Noe Valley Farmers' Market.

Another local author, LeUyen Pham, cele-



The Local Angle: Diagonal parking is a winner, says Isa Muhawieh, who along with other merchants and residents in Noe Valley successfully petitioned the city to do a six-month trial run on the block of Castro Street between Jersey and 25th streets. "So far, everyone has been coming up to shake my hand. At least a dozen people have said, 'This is such a great idea. They should have done it years ago,'" Muhawieh says when the six months are up in November, he expects the city will grant an extension of diagonal parking up Castro to Elizabeth Street. "It seems to be working fine—the Muni buses never come off line, and people have stopped double-parking." Photo by Pomelo Gerord

☎ ☎ ☎

is calm, has confidence, and is well-fed."

MEAT BALLS: Kudos go out to Noe Valley recipients of this year's *Bay Guardian* "Best of the Bay" awards. The best "Mini-Mall Services Behind a Single Storefront" award went to Drewes Brothers Meats, which "simultaneously serves as a butcher, fishmonger, grocer, postal and fax, notary, and FedEx/UPS site."

The "Best Place to Run Like a Girl" is See Jane Run, where the staff was applauded for its great customer service. Socially responsible Global Exchange won for stocking the "Best Sweatshop-free Sneakers." Miss Millie's topped the list in the "Best Comfort Food" category, especially the weekend brunch. And finally, the 65-foot-long double slide in Seward Street Park was the "Best Adult Slide."

Well, folks, that 30 for this month. I'll be sliding out of here until next issue. Ciao.

At press time, we learned that the fleet *Lost in the Fog* triumphed at Saratoga, beating the next-best horse by 4-3/4 lengths.



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Castro Area Planning + Action

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230
E-mail: capa@home4us.org
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,
Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100
Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30
p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San
Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; mem-
bership semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Evelyn
Martin, 826-6734; Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San
Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of the month
(every other month—call to confirm), Noe
Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San
Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Thursday of the month
(except December), Eureka Valley Recrea-
tion Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362
Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San
Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for information. The annual
Fair Oaks Street Fair is always held the day
before Mother's Day.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craig, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
E-mail: lauranor@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley,
P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Debra Niemann, 282-9918
E-mail: nemo@rcn.com
Web site: www.friendsofnoevalley.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San
Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: First or second Thursday of the
month (call or e-mail to confirm), Noe
Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7 p.m.

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
Mailing Address: 205 30th St., San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San
Francisco, CA 94119
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

Contact: Martine, noestrolls@aol.com.
Monthly Stroll: First Tuesday of the month,
1 p.m. To receive stroll locations and notices
of other events, e-mail your first name, and
your baby's first name and age, to noestrolls@aol.com or go to www.noestrolls.com.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Rafael Mandelman, 648-4010
Meetings: First Wednesday of the month;
Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.,
7:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Farmers' Market

Co-sponsor: Noe Valley Ministry
Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332
Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San
Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,
Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.,
6 p.m.

Noe Valley Library Campaign

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695,
kkdrew@yahoo.com; Marian Chatfield-
Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103
Mailing Address: Friends of the
San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St.,
San Francisco, CA 94102
Meetings: Second Wednesday of the month,
Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 6:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: Carol Yenne, 648-3954
Mailing Address: c/o Small Frys, 4066 24th
St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month,
Bank of America, 24th and Castro, 9 a.m.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contacts: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
E-mail: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
Web site: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
Meetings: See web site.

See Jane Run Running/Walking Club

Contact: Lori Shannon, 401-8338
Mailing Address: 3870 24th Street, San
Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Sundays, 10 a.m. (Runners meet
at See Jane Run to pick up the 5K run/walk
route. Info? www.SeeJaneRunSports.com.)

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and
Fair Oaks to Mission
Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
E-mail: lori@tail-wagging.com
Web site: www.tail-wagging.com
Meetings: E-mail for information.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Last Thursday of the month (call
to confirm), Upper Noe Recreation Center,
Day and Sanchez streets, 7:30 p.m.



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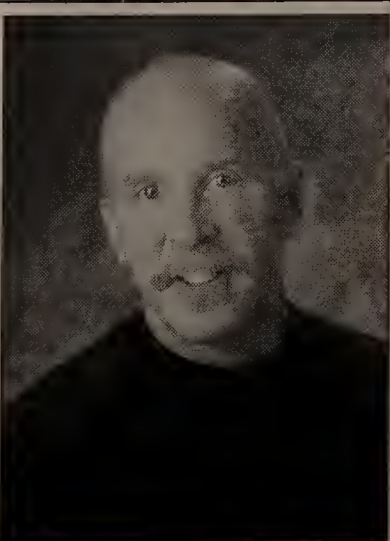
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get dates and times for upcoming community forums by checking out our online updates at www.stlukes-sf.org.

Second, **we want to hear from you** about your health care needs and suggestions for an improved St. Luke's. Visit our website at www.stlukes-sf.org to complete a brief questionnaire. Your valuable information will assist us in planning for St. Luke's future. If you complete the questionnaire, as a token of our appreciation, your name will be entered into a drawing for a new digital camera. If you prefer to receive the survey by mail, please call us at 1-866-332-2249 to request a copy.

Watch for more news about St. Luke's.



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THE LAST PAGE

Maya Stein, 33, has lived in San Francisco for more than 10 years, most recently on Upper Clayton Street—which, she points out, is still within the neighborhood's 94114 zip code. Her favorite Noe Valley hangouts are Café XO, Lovejoy's Tea Room, the Upper Noe Rec Center,

Poems by Maya Stein

and (afterwards) Fitwell Chiropractic. Stein has self-published two collections of erotic-themed essays, *Spinning the Bottle* (2004) and *The Overture of an Apple* (2003), as well as two chapbooks of shorter works. More of her writing can be found at www.mayapapaya.com

Without Fail

The avocado tree outside the sliding glass doors of my living room sprang from a series of pits two young girls had tossed from their bedroom balcony in various fits of boredom and scientific curiosity. Or so my landlord tells me, his daughters now grown and sprouting seeds of their own—MBAs, New York careers, the lot of it. He points out the other haphazard, accidental bloomings—a cherry tree, orange, plum—but says, with a grimace and an odd sense of satisfaction, that none of the fruit is edible.

I try anyway.
Steal down the trap door to the garden on a day he's not here, spend an hour wandering the overgrowth. The trees are weighty with fruit and possibility and I just don't believe him. This is not some desert mirage. What I see, in fact, is the opposite of fallow. A matrix of earth and roots and all the good tools for bearing fruit. Couldn't get any better than this, I think. The right shade, the right sun, rain, all of it right and obviously more than enough.

The trees stand transcendent and wise, and indeed, the branches climb higher than I'll ever be. A primal tangle of bark and leaf and blossom, but mostly what there is is fruit.

Poised there like a studio photograph, all luster and perfection, something Mapplethorpe could have conjured in his off-hours from the lilies. Trees gratuitous with fruit, gorgeous orbs of color, and the word bounty is what springs to mind at a moment like this. Or Eden. I am in such a garden.

And yet, each thing I take, once opened, reveals the true truth of itself. Under shiny, promising skins, the interiors have waged a losing battle. Without fail the plums and cherries are ruined microcosms of flesh, the oranges hollow skeletons of their well-fed supermarket cousins. The avocados have simply lied to themselves. Inside their mottled moonscape shells lies a fibrous wasteland of pit and disease.

I wonder how, with its fruit in such decline, and a graveyard of castoffs haloing underneath, like a perpetual, vicious reminder of doom and genetic failure, how a tree, nevertheless, can aim skyward with such unstoppable abandon.

Window Boxes

In another life or city, this would be called trespassing. Poking your nose where it doesn't belong.

But I was in this city and in this life, feeling oddly at peace in my Taurean body, and aware, for the first time, of my desire to edit this urban horticulture, and I took the great plunge. Dove into the mess with the single thought of making it better, prettifying a place that was not mine. And discovered what great reward it is to pluck the dead flowers from someone else's window boxes.

And though, with the dead stalks gone, the remaining ones looked so exposed, susceptible to whatever harsh reality had taken the rest of the plant away, I wondered if the owner of these remaining flowers would, now, with greater precision, direct the watering can. And if this new, naked space revealed, in fact, that other, magnificent reality of what was actually quite possible again.

How Gentle

Despite the gathering rain and the unkind wind, the gardener bent toward the earth and dug just as deliberately as ever, eyes down, not noticing the rest of the world had hastened indoors toward television sets and reheated dinners.

The air was thick as a mattress. heavy as chimney soot, dark as a fox thief poised on his hind legs, waiting. No one else was interested in this kind of weather, the impending roil of an electricity tantrum. Instead, they turned up the heat inside, made microwave popcorn, read their horoscopes.

The gardener was mindful only of the soil, the integrity of its chemical composition, the ratio between nutrient and mineral, and earnest calculations followed while inside the heated, halogened homes, there was a rage of infomercials.

I'm picturing the gardener's hands, a matrix of skin and patience. How gentle the fingertips must be for this work of pressing the earth, coaxing a home for that one precious rooted thing out of the fecund, breeding chaos.



Photo by Pamela Genard